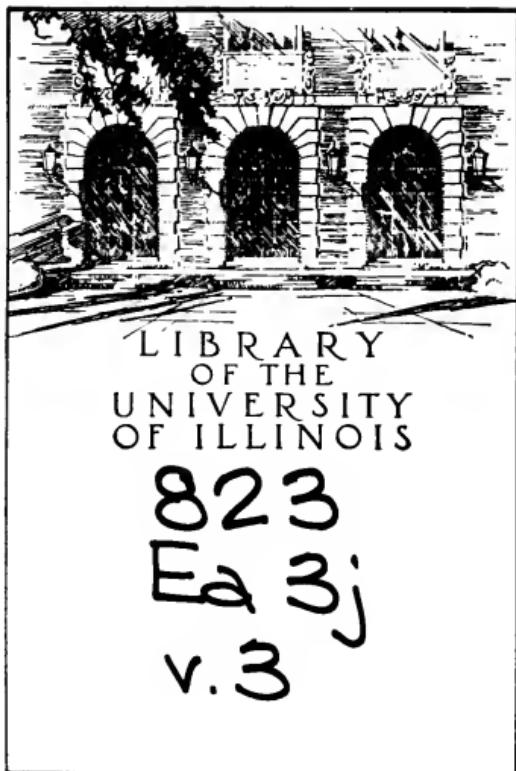




Eliza Giffard
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THE
JOURNAL
OF
LLEWELLIN PENROSE,

A

SEAMAN.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET,
AND WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH.

1815.



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THE

JOURNAL OF PENROSE.

CHAP. XXI.

ONE day as I was passing into our dwelling, I took notice of a white circle on the under side of the archway of the cavern; as I had not observed it before, I was not a little curious to find out the cause. On viewing it with some attention, I observed now and then a kind of brown wasp come in with a bit of the same matter and fix it to the circle, by this means enlarging its dimensions; so that from about three inches

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diameter, in the course of a few days it was the size of a large punch bowl. They now began to narrow it again, giving it somewhat the form of a bottle with a projecting neck, still working downwards, so that by the time it was finished it was near a foot in length, leaving only a small hole sufficient for one to enter at a time. The women wanted to knock it down, lest they might sting the children; but I forbade them.

When some time after I found all the wasps had forsaken it, I bid Harry cut it down carefully with a knife; and when I came to examine the internal structure, nothing could be more curious. The cells were ranged circularly, one within the other, so that it formed one complete spiral line; in substance it resembled our coarse white paper, but much stronger, and did not weigh above an ounce or two at most.

There is a sort of insect here of a very odd form, being in length about four inches, yet so very slim in one part that it is not much thicker than a small thread ; it has eight very long legs, and two horns six inches in length, tapering to such a small point, that it is as fine as the lines of a cobweb to appearance. The whole insect, wings and all, is the colour of the fine steel of the watch spring ; but what is more singular is its smell, no rose can have a finer scent. It has the power of folding up these horns in joints, or can at pleasure lay them both flat at length backwards in a direct line.

There is another sort which resembles a wasp, but three times its size, and in colour like amber, with a yellow head. I never could see above one of them at a time. Its manner of life differs from that of other insects of the same class ; it burrows in any dry and sandy place, to the

depth of a foot or more ; to this kind of cell he brings all his prey, being very voracious after all sorts of flies, which he catches either on the wing or by stratagem, when they are on a leaf. Having two legs longer than the rest, he carries his prey between his feet, and, by a movement in the joints of those two long legs, he poises the load if it proves rather heavy. When he brings home his prey and has descended below, you shall hear a kind of noise the whole time, like a person drawing the bow of a fiddle over the smaller strings ; when this stops, you may expect his return. On his coming up he proceeds to work with his two long feet backward, and in a short time covers the entrance so curiously that the place is not to be observed ; and should you make any alteration so as to deceive him, yet has he the sagacity soon to find it out. I have opened several of these repositories, and have found at the bottom

several small cells, in each of which were found insects of different kinds.

Now we are on the subject of insects, I will mention another sort with which we were sometimes amused. It was a kind of large beetle, of a black colour. This insect, whenever it finds the dung of any animal, or other kind of pulpy offal, it there takes up its residence until the whole be consumed; but as the manner of providing for itself is somewhat curious, I shall give it to the reader. It always flies by night, or late in the evening, and has a wonderful instinct in finding out the above-mentioned substances; and if the surface of the earth be not too hard, it begins to work down through the centre of the mass to a considerable depth, bringing up the loose earth; this it lays all on one side till it has completed the work; then it begins to gather it up, as one would do hay or straw. When it has as much as it can grasp, it

walks backward with it to the edge of the hole, throws itself backward, load and all, and thus tumbles to the bottom of its cell ; it then returns again and acts in the same manner till it has industriously collected the whole. If you dig down some time after, you shall find the whole mass curiously made up into a round ball, and very closely packed together. When you break this ball, in the centre is to be seen its young embryo, and as that comes to maturity, its food is already provided, and it begins to eat the internal part, the old one does the same by the external, so that by the time they have eaten up the whole, the young one is become capable of providing for itself. But if the quantity should prove too small, the old one goes in search of more, and flies home with it to the cell, continually, till the young has acquired sufficient strength to go abroad. It then carries the young black bantling in its arms, as I may

say, and leaves it to provide for itself, having discharged all the duties of a parent.

To return to my Journal. About the latter end of August, Harry had a daughter born, and he chose she should be called Luta, after my poor wife, his sister. As Somer and I were joking together about providing a fortune for our children out of the treasure we had found, which, considering it as of little use in our present situation, we called dross, Owen happened to stand by us at the time listening to our discourse, and said, "father, there is dross of that kind in the great bible book."

"I know that," said I; thinking he meant the clasps.

"No, not the clasps," he said.

"Hold your foolish tongue," I cried.

"Indeed, father," said the boy, "there is dross in the boards of it."

"Indeed!" said I. "Well, then, Somer, let us examine into this."

When we came to open the bible, the child at once shewed us the place within the cover, where I could plainly see something shining, which, on examination, I found to be a piece of coin. I then went to work, got it out and found it to be a moidore; and on further search found a range of them; we then turned up the other lid, and found the same. This made us pause and look at each other.

“ Now,” said I, “ I perfectly understand what the author of those lines written in the cover intended by the precaution of not parting with it; had old Organ been wise enough to fathom this, he would not have suffered me to make the purchase.” Somer laughed heartily at this. In both covers there were not less than sixty moidores.

Perhaps this book had been presented to a spendthrift; and the giver had ingeniously taken this method to supply his wants,

when, by his application to this book, his mind might be in a better state to receive the benefit; little thinking that it would ever find its way to this remote part of the world, and fall into the hands of persons who could actually make no use of it, and would prize the book infinitely beyond the riches of the cover.

Soon after this a droll circumstance happened. As Harry and I were walking in the woods, I observed a kind of vine growing up a large tree, and hung full of a kind of beans. I asked him if they were fit to eat. He said the Indians ate them sometimes. The pods of these beans were a foot in length, and about the breadth of a Windsor bean, but much flatter, and the bean small in proportion to the pod. As they were nearly ripe, we gathered a handful or two, and carried them home. I then stripped them, and stowed them away in a locker that Somer had made. It happen-

ed a few days after that I seated myself on this box, when, on a sudden, such a loud report went off, that I got up and ran out, quite surprised. The women came to inquire what the noise meant; but on Harry's lifting up the lid of the locker, we were saluted with such a volley, some of them jumped out, and altogether made so great a clatter, that our peaceable dwelling was like a stormed battery.

On the 4th of December, as Patty and Jessy were on the hill gathering some leaves to cure a burn, they came down in a hurry, and informed us that there were many large boats on the water. We ran up the hill, and saw seven large vessels, with three others of a smaller size, all standing to the east. They were very far out, so I took my glass and found them to be large ships, and the smaller ones with two masts. As the wind was at west, and but little of it, they remained in sight for

several hours, and in the evening we heard a gun. Harry and I then took another look, and found them all huddled together. Early the next day we went up again, and could but just discern them with the glass; and in about two hours lost sight of them entirely. I have no doubt but it was a squadron of kings ships, and most probably belonging to Spain. The next day we saw a large sloop standing the same way, which I suppose belonged to them.

Somer now took it into his head that they were in search of us, upon the information of the Irish captain, or some of his people. I bid him never fear that. We were not of sufficient consequence to excite so much attention. It was hardly worth the viceroy's while to fit out such a squadron for no better purpose than to rout a couple of poor jack-tars. If they had a mind to attack us, a small armed launch would be quite sufficient to do our busi-

ness, therefore we need not give ourselves the least uneasiness on this subject.

Now, though my reason was fully satisfied with what I told him, yet I must confess, when I heard the gun, and saw them all huddled together, my mind was hurried, and I felt something like fear that we might some way or other be the objects of their attention. The moment I began to exercise my judgment upon it, every apprehension was at once discarded. Had they known of our treasure, our fears might not have been wholly groundless; and then, indeed, as that treasure would have been their only object, they would have taken what was of no use to us, and have left us naked and happy as before.

Once or twice a year we were visited by numbers of pigeons of two sorts, viz bald-pates and sprig-tails. I should have mentioned them before, but for want of ammunition I could never reach them; so

they passed unheeded. The bald-pates, as I call them, did not breed with us, as I believe; for I never could discover any of their nests. The bird is small, and coal-black, except the poll or scalp, that being quite white, the feet and bill crimson, with red circles round the eyes. The sprig-tail is a very fine bird, about the size of the English wood-pigeon or quist, and much resembles that species. When they fly, the tail appears as terminating in one long point. This bird is so swift of flight, that it is almost impossible to follow them with the eye; and if I was to mention the distance I think they will make in a minute, it would seem incredible. The Indians assert they can fly above one thousand miles in twenty-four hours, without once resting. Owagamy told me their people had shot them, with a kind of red berry quite fresh in them, early in a morning; which berries were not to be met with

within two moons walk of their place, far away to the south-west.

Now I am speaking of these birds, I will mention another species of pigeon, or partridge, for it seems to partake of each kind. In size it is like the partridge, short and full; but as to its colours, I have not words to express their beautiful variety, many of which change as you look at them, with the slightest motion. The Indians call it a deceiver, and with some propriety. They are never to be seen in any exposed place, but in the hilly country, among rocks and bushes. They take but a short flight, as they depend much on running, and are so exceedingly subtle, that if they are pursued, they will squat behind any small stone, so that you may know to an inch where the bird is, yet cannot shoot it; therefore they must be taken either running or on the wing, no other means answering the purpose. These birds are very excellent dainties.

About the end of December my shipmate Somer began to fail off again, and he declined so fast, that in a very short time he became nothing but skin and bone. I knew not what to do; I had not skill enough to give him any relief. At length, however, by Harry's advice, I proposed they should take a journey to visit the Indians, thinking the change of air might prove of some benefit to him. He was pleased with the proposal, and soon after, having gained a little strength, undertook the journey. I was unwilling to part with him, and yet it appeared this excursion was the only chance of recovering his health. I had a sincere regard for him, and would have given all our hidden treasure to have restored him. Harry was to accompany him; and when the time of their departure came, he earnestly requested me, if he should not live to return, to be a father to his child. I made him easy,

by giving him every assurance of my most affectionate regard, and that I would discharge the trust as truly as if it was my own child. On the morrow they prepared to depart, not without the greatest concern on all sides. I proposed that he should take his wife Eva with him, and the child, as perhaps she might prove of service in the journey. This was agreed to, and they went off tolerably cheerful. I had enough to do to administer consolation to those who remained. Where the society is but of one family, the attachments are very strong: Patty and Job were in great lamentation; my son in tears; and Harry the worst of all, for he had a sincere affection, almost amounting to veneration, for Somer, which was returned with equal tenderness. Having lost our very sincere friend, it was some time before we could return to our usual occupations with any tolerable composure; when necessity did

not require immediate exertion, we moped about without object or employment. I made frequent and melancholy reflections ; that perhaps I might never see my friend's face more. I was sorry that I had proposed the journey which separated us, though expressly for his benefit ; perhaps he might die in the woods and might want my assistance when I was far from him. These and a thousand other tormenting thoughts haunted my fancy, and made me at times extremely miserable. My wife did every thing to cheer and comfort me, and to her kind attentions I was indebted for the little tranquillity I enjoyed.

Thus was I forced to drag my time along. Patty was greatly dejected ; she had now two young children. As I expected to hear from, or see them in about a month, when that time had elapsed, I became very uneasy ; considering that he was dead ; that he had yielded his last breath far from

home, and without the possibility of my performing the last mournful offices for him. This affected me greatly. It happened about this time that my wife roused me suddenly in the night, saying she heard a conch. I started up to light a torch, then called Patty. I was fearful—my wife had been dreaming, and questioned her on the subject. She said she had certainly heard it, and could not be deceived, as she was broad awake. I took a shell and gave a loud blast; shortly after it was answered from a great distance. An ugly thought now perplexed my mind, that probably this sound might not proceed from friends. When this once took possession of me, it almost rendered me incapable of action. Presently I heard the sound again; I then at once made up my mind to the exigence, and determined to await the issue with manly fortitude. By this time the morning began to peep, which gave me new spi-

rits. I ordered a good fire to be made up, and then gave another blast, which was presently answered, and by the sound I knew they were not far off. We stood by the fire for some time, then sounded again, and were answered as from the lagoon. On this I gave a shout, and was answered by Harry's well known voice. We all ran down immediately to the landing place, and waited till they came in. The first who jumped on shore was Owagamy. It was now so light that I could distinguish the number of persons, though not perfectly recognise them. I called out with great impatience, "Where is my shipmate Somer?"

"Here he is," cried Harry.

He then landed. My heart was so full I could not speak; I took him in my arms; I could not express myself then, nor can I now describe of what kind my sensations were for the moment. A painful yet plea-

surable tumult occupied my senses ; I had neither eyes nor ears but for the object before me ; yet was there a certain confusion in my ideas that deprived me of the faculty of expressing the satisfaction I felt for his return. I led him to my habitation ; and as I began to recover myself, to my great surprise I saw another white man, a Spaniard as I believed. This startled me much ; but the pleasure I now began to express for my friend's return absorbed every other consideration, and I took no further notice at the time. Somier then told me that he had been much worse, or should have returned sooner ; but he was resolved, whether his time was long or short, that he would live and die with me his good friend.

I now began to consider that the secret of my residence on this coast was discovered to the Spaniards, and that all hope of future comfort was banished for ever. I

put the best face I could on the matter, and asked Harry how many were in company with him ; he said ten. " Welcome all," I replied. Then taking the Spaniard, as I conceived him to be, by the hand, said, " And, pray, who is this stranger ?"

What was my astonishment when he answered me himself in plain English, " A poor unfortunate wanderer, long lost to all comfort."

" The more welcome to my peaceful habitation," cried I ; " I took you for a Spaniard ; you may judge how agreeably I am surprised to find you my own countryman. You will now consider yourself as one of my family ; but, pray, what part of Great Britain gave you birth ?"

" I was born in the shire of Buchan," said he ; " my name is Norman Bell."

" Well, then," replied I, " my good friend, make yourself easy here ; you are under my protection ; and if in any thing

I can contribute to your future happiness, you may at all times command my best services."

At this moment my affections were so divided amongst my family, that I scarcely knew how to conduct myself. Patty and Job were overjoyed; poor Eva was recounting her troubles to Jessy, with tears in her eyes; my new friend gazing around like a man on enchanted ground; Owagamy and others were chatting with my wife, and little Owen and Harry were busy explaining every thing to the rest. Such was the scene before me. It was now broad day. I desired Patty to get some water in one of the yabbas, and then made some weak toddy to refresh the travellers. When presented to Bell, he declined it, saying he had not touched any spirits for a very long time. The rest regaled themselves. My wife prepared them beds of palmetto leaves, on which they slept soundly and pleasant-

ly. I told Harry that in consequence of so large a company he must go to the crawl for turtle ; which he did with another Indian, and when they returned it was killed and dressed for our entertainment.

When my two friends, Somer and Bell, were awakened, I joined them, and we went together to the Indians. I was resolved to give the latter as much of my company as possible, to prevent any jealousy that I was willing to pay more respect to those of my own colour than to them. Somer said he found himself in an unusual flow of spirits, a sensation he had not felt for a long time ; this exhilarated me likewise ; and after our meal, we all enjoyed our pipes together, and were the largest company of puffers that had been collected at one time at my habitation since my first landing. I asked Mr Bell how long he had been with our good friends the Indians. He said not above three weeks ;

and had enjoyed more comfort during that time, by the conversation with my friend Somer, than for many years past. He added, that he had given him so favourable an opinion of me, that he had a great desire to see me.

I now took an opportunity and shewed to Owagamy some of the teeth we had found, and desired to have his opinion concerning them. They were handed all round the company ; and after they had conferred together for some time in their own language, Owagamy told Harry that both his father and himself had seen them often, and that he knew of a deep valley wherein were many of them, but it was far to the south. He never could learn that any of their old people had seen one of the animals alive ; but it was reported that they had white horns as long as an Indian, for that some old people related they had seen the horns, particularly one called old Wa-

riboon, a great hunter, who had kept one of them a long time by him ; but as he lived at a great distance from them, they had never seen it. Upon this an Indian, whose name was Kayoota, said his father had seen it so many times, holding up his fingers. From all which we gathered that the beast in question must be an elephant, and that the horns they mentioned were the teeth of the animal. How the race became extinct we could not divine, unless the natives had, at some remote time, combined together to extirpate them. And this seemed to be almost impossible, as the continent was so very extensive, and the inhabitants at any time but thinly scattered over the face of it, and many of them thousands of miles asunder. Such an agreement, therefore, could hardly ever have taken place between tribes so widely separated from each other, and without any common centre of union.

C H A P. XXII.

FOURTEENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

NOTHING worthy of recording happened from the time my new friend Bell came to reside with us. It was now the month of June, and by my computation I had been here thirteen years complete. I shall now give a short account of him, as I had it from his own mouth. His father, Angus Bell, was born in West Lothian, and had travelled the country as a pedlar. He died when his son was but ten years of age. Soon after his father's death, he was placed with a carpenter in the shire of Fife, his mother being from those parts. When

he was about fifteen, he ran away, and got on board a vessel that traded to the east country. After that he took several trips from Aberdeen to London. During the war he went several cruizes, was taken and carried into St Maloes, where he lay in prison a long time, and amused himself during his imprisonment, by learning to play on the German flute of a fellow prisoner, whose name was James Alexander, a countryman of his. When an exchange took place, he came again to London, and entered on board a ship bound for New York. On his return, having a great inclination to music, he practised the French horn and trumpet, and by a foolish prank of wrestling, received a hurt on his back, which rendered him unfit to follow the sea at that time.

Some time after this he fell in with a set of puppet-show people, who finding he could blow the French horn and trumpet,

engaged him in their service. He very speedily rose to the dignity of Merry Andrew, and travelled over a great part of England, Wales, and Ireland, in their company. Being fond of variety, his next engagement was with a quack doctor ; he travelled two years with him in the same capacity, and took every opportunity of shewing off his tricks for the benefit of his master and himself. He said he was an excellent mimic, and could with ease take off the French, Dutch, Irish, Welch, &c. &c. Being now perfectly cured of his strain, and coming to the city of Bristol, his inclination for the sea again prevailed ; he shipped himself, was once more taken by the French, and carried into Leogane, where he lay so long in prison, that in order to procure his liberty, he engaged with one captain Raiz, a Spaniard, then bound to Carthagena. With him he continued for some time, and went afterwards

to Maracaybo ; from which place he followed the coasting trade, and chance brought him acquainted with an old Irishman, named M'Gill, under whom he studied, and made some proficiency in the Spanish language. The old man told him one day, that if he had an inclination to be married he could recommend him to a good match, and he was pretty sure he would succeed, as he had heard the person express as much when he was sounding with Pantomaga's trumpet. "I suppose you mean Maria Bela, the mulatto girl?" "Yes," he replied, "and she is possessed of four or five slaves, a good house, and money likewise."

He took the old man's advice, and speedily married her ; he lived very happily with her about five years, and then the Padres were very troublesome with him on the score of religion, trying by every possible means to draw him to their persuasion. He, however, resisted all their importunities, but little

thought what a cloud was hanging over his head, ready to burst, and involve him in destruction. He had for some time suspected his wife's fidelity; and one day as he was returning from a sloop he had purchased, his suspicions were in a degree confirmed, that father Martin was somewhat more than confessor to his lady. The high reputation and power of this priest, enjoined him to silence from the most prudential motives; however he took the first opportunity his wife gave him of remonstrating with her, and inveighed against the reverend father for his lewdness and hypocrisy, in no very qualified terms. A pretty fellow to think of converting him to the catholic religion, who made no scruple of violating its most sacred ordinances. The church had enjoined celibacy on the clergy, that their minds, abstracted from all carnal desires, should indulge only in divine contemplations; and

their lives be spent in the chaste and pious performance of the duties of their holy function. Under the sanction of their order they were admitted into families at all times and in all places, from which others of their sex were excluded. To convert this privilege to the purposes of seduction or violation of the marriage bed, was a scandal to the religion they professed, a mockery of God's ordinances, and a contempt of the civil institutions by which society is held together. They deserved to be made severe instances of offended justice, when instead of teaching others by their precepts and example, by the purity of their doctrine, and the sanctity of their manners, they became general corrupters, and lived in the open practice of the most abominable vices, in defiance of common decency, and above the controul of secular authority. This effusion of his justifiable resentment against the reverend father confessor, was not lost

upon his unworthy partner, she treasured up every word of it, and gave it again to the Padre, with some slight additions and variations to answer her purpose. From this moment he was never suffered to enjoy one moment's peace. His obstinacy in resisting the pious exhortations of the fathers, in respect to his religious principles, was represented to his superiors in the most unfavourable colours ; his heretical opinions were considered as injurious to the state, and a plot was laid to deprive him of his liberty, if not of his life. Having good intelligence of what was going forward, he resolved to give them the slip, and have a fair run for it. To carry this scheme into execution, it was necessary to veil his purpose under the appearance and profession of the most profound submission to the reverend fathers, and by expressing a willingness to take their arguments for his conversion into his most serious consi-

deration. Crafty and cunning as they were, he had the art of completely deceiving them ; and about the time he was to have been received into the bosom of the holy church, with due formality, he disguised himself, and by a hasty and successful flight, put an end to his hypocrisy and their persecution. He left his fair rib without the slightest compunction, and under various characters travelled some thousand miles. Having health, spirits, and a fund of humour, he continued to make himself well received every where ; he could sing, play, and perform a number of tricks ; he passed for an Italian, and gave himself the name of Giovanetti ; sometimes he put on the air of a slighted lover, and would sing love sonnets, and accompany himself ; at other times he would tell merry tales, and divert his hearers with romantic accounts of his travels and adventures. Thus he rambled about for four years, until chance

brought him at length among our Indians, where finding my friend Somer, he determined to pay me a visit, and take up his residence with me, if agreeable.

When his story was concluded, I told him, that having padded the hoof so long, a place of rest and quiet might not be unpleasant to him. He had seen enough of the varieties of life, and had drank deep of the intoxicating beverage of short lived pleasure. He acknowledged the justice of my remark, and added, "Indeed, Mr Penrose, you may believe me, I have sowed my wild oats, and have long since laid all my follies aside; I trust you will not find me an unpleasant, nor wholly an unprofitable companion.

I then took the opportunity of telling him, that doubtless in his travels he had collected a variety of nostrums; that poor Somer was extremely ill; and if he knew of any simple remedy that would at all

relieve him, he could not do me a greater favour than by administering it. He said, that to flatter me in such a case as this would only add to my distress. He saw plainly that my friend was in a deep decline, and to preserve his life for any length of time he thought impossible. It was true he was well acquainted with the virtues of many American plants and roots, and would use his best endeavours to give him as much ease as possible; but cautioned me not to flatter myself into a conceit of his recovery, by the appearance of some favourable symptoms at times; this was the nature of his disorder; but that he would linger away by degrees, and go off perhaps when I least expected it. This gave me great pain, as I had a sincere value for him, and had so long enjoyed his agreeable society.

Mr Bell was a strong, cheerful, and healthy man; but my poor friend Somer wast-

ed away daily. Yet he continually thought himself getting better, and would sometimes say, when I get a little stronger I will do so and so ; but in fact he grew, imperceptibly to himself, weaker and weaker every day. At length he became quite a living skeleton ; his skin turned to a dark brown, and sometimes livid ; his trowsers would hardly keep on him ; his eyes became exceeding hollow, with a fixed kind of stare ; and his lips were so shrunk that he became a most ghastly object, and it made my heart bleed to look at him. Whenever he drank, we could hear the liquid rattle within him ; his poor stomach was so depraved, that he would long to eat things, which when brought to him he could not touch ; yet he continued to walk about. At last he gave up his darling pipe, and grew exceedingly peevish and fretful, although when in health I do not remember a sweeter tempered creature. Nothing we could pro-

cure would now please him. We bore with it all, with the most generous patience ; every one was ready to exert himself to the utmost to procure him the slightest alleviation. He took a fancy to some fish broth ; I made him some and took it to him ; he was then on my bed in the cave ; he raised himself up and began to eat of it heartily, praising it much. He finished near a pint of it. I then asked him how he found himself ; he made me no reply, but, fixing his eyes against the other side as if he saw something, in an instant he threw the spoon against it violently, then falling back, made an odd kind of hollow sound, and expired.

This scene was almost too much for me. I turned out of the cave, and reclined with my head against the rock like a person stu-pified. No one knew of the event but myself. Bell seeing me in this situation, guessed what had happened. He went in and

found his conjecture right. He informed Harry, and desired that I might not be disturbed. The melancholy news was soon communicated to my whole family, and great lamentation was made. If ever true grief was shewn, it was on this occasion. Thus died my worthy and lamented friend, on the 21st day of August 1760, having lived with me in perfect brotherly love more than six years. During that time he had been the partaker of my joys and my sorrows ; he had made it his study to co-operate with me in every thing to promote the good of our little society, and was always the first to propose whatever might increase our domestic felicity. His constant flow of spirits and good humour enlivened every scene ; he lessened our difficulties by cheerfully sharing them ; and our social hours were rendered brighter by the sprightliness of his wit, and the amiable frankness of his manners. My chief consolation was,

that I had contributed to the quiet enjoyment of his latter days, by every friendly exertion in my power.

It now appeared to me that I was beginning a new course. I had lost my steady and faithful friend Somer; to Bell's temper and disposition I was yet a stranger; my family were filled with the most unfeigned sorrow; and my little Owen's innocent, yet affectionate remarks on many friendly actions of my deceased friend, often brought tears into my eyes. I had now enough upon my mind. Harry prepared a resting place for poor Somer's remains. We conveyed it to the grave with decent solemnity, and committed it to the earth with the prayers and tears of my whole family. When the ceremony was concluded, we returned home. My family seated themselves in melancholy attitudes around me. After some pause, I broke silence. Addressing myself to Mr Bell, I ran

over the many good qualities of my departed friend, and then intimated that I looked upon him as the successor appointed by Providence to fill his place; that as one island had given us birth, I hoped he would never fall from that integrity, so long held by a man who was not my countryman; who had learned in the school of adversity to know himself, and to exercise Christian benevolence to his fellow creatures in a similar state of affliction. He returned me for answer, that he should always think it his duty to concur with my desires, as the only recompence in his power for the generosity of my conduct to him; and that he would seek all opportunities to render my life and that of my family easy and agreeable to the utmost of his power.

For some time after this we passed our leisure hours in reading, and I found my new companion a very agreeable, sensible man, so that by degrees I recovered my

spirits. Eva, who had very sincerely lamented her husband's death, became of a sudden more dejected than usual; she would separate from us and keep aloof by herself. I knew not what to make of it. Some time had now passed since her husband's death, and if she had not entirely recovered her usual spirits, she was at least placid and serene; therefore we could not look to that as the cause of her present uneasiness. I spoke to my wife on the subject; she at length told me she had picked the secret out of Patty. Eva had told her, in their metaphorical language, that the vine of unity was now broken by her husband's death, and that we should soon look upon her and her child as a dead tree and a withered branch of no further use; therefore if Mr Bell would not take her for his wife she was resolved to go back to her own people again.

“A pretty piece of business this,” said

I. "What is to be done, I know not, unless Bell should himself express any inclination that way. I can never propose it to him. We shall see what time and opportunity may do."

Soon after this, Bell talked of going out with Harry to catch guanos. Thinking this a favourable opportunity, I desired Betty to give Harry a lesson how to sound him on the subject. She did so, and they set off accordingly. On their return, I made an inquiry how the proposal was received, and found it had been rejected altogether. Bell had declared himself so thoroughly dissatisfied with his first matrimonial connection, that he had determined not to engage himself again. This being the case, I said if Eva's inclination to revisit her country still continued, she should return with the first party of her friends that came to visit us.

Thus matters continued for some time. I must here mention a circumstance which happened a few days before my poor friend Somer's death. Several large birds of the vulture kind came and settled on a large old dead tree near our habitation. The nearer his end approached, the greater number of birds came, and remained to the hour of his death. No sooner was he departed than they all took wing, and kept floating in a circular manner until night, then alighted again; but when the body was buried, they all left the place, and not one remained behind. These birds are of a most voracious disposition, and of wonderful sagacity. It is said they will scent a dying person at an incredible distance, and are sure to be seen as soon as the event has happened, if not sooner. For some time before my friend died, his breath had been very offensive; whether they had been drawn together by this effluvia I know not,

but to the fact of their being there I was a witness.

This bird is about the size of a young turkey, of a black colour, and has those singular excrescences round the neck like that fowl. They never kill their prey, but patiently wait till the animal is dead ; and as they know the time to an instant, they at once drop down from the tree, if any be near ; one always begins upon the carcase singly, eats the eyes and the fundament, then leaves it, and the rest fall on and devour it entirely before they leave the place. When I was at Jamaica, where there are plenty of them, I was informed that a law was enacted, under a penalty of five pounds, against the shooting of one of them, as they were found serviceable in clearing off all carrion. I made Harry shoot one of them that I might make a fair examination of it, as he said their stomachs were full of large worms ; and I actu-

ally found it so. What is very surprising, when I came to take up the bird it did not weigh much more than a pound, being little else than bone and feathers, and what is very singular, to all appearance it had no tongue.

C H A P. XXIII.

I ONE day found Eva weeping over the grave of her husband. I endeavoured to sooth and comfort her ; she muttered a few words about her child, held it up to me, and again wept bitterly. I was soon made acquainted with the cause of this affliction. She believed, because the father of her child was a white man, that when she returned with her countrymen we would not permit her to take the child with her. I gave the fullest assurance that no such thing was intended ; that she should certainly

take it with her; but that it would give me much more pleasure if she was to stay with us and become the wife of my new friend Bell: This, however, must depend upon his inclinations, over which I had no controul. Mr Bell, from time to time, grew more familiar with her, and took occasion to cheer her in the best manner he could, telling her that he did not reject her person, for he liked her very well; but as he had been unfortunate in his first choice, he wished to remain single; and there was no doubt but she would meet with a good husband among her own people.

Things remained in this state until the arrival of four Indians who had been out on a journey and paid us a visit on their return. These were Vatte-queba, Gattaloon, and Wocozo-many, with a youth called Outa-harry, his son. The two last had never been at our place before. We received them in the most friendly manner;

and the next day I desired my wife and Harry to break to them the affair concerning Eva. This they did ; and I observed the Indians began to look very serious. Soon after, Harry came to me, and said Gatta-loon wanted to make a speech to me.

“ Tell him I am ready to hear him,” said I.

On this he advanced towards me, as it appeared in a hostile angry manner, and throwing out his right arm, with one leg advanced, he began to deliver his oration. This took up a long time ; and his behaviour during the continuance of it was lofty and heroic ; every now and then he would appeal to his comrades, who all answered together with a short word as one voice. When he had closed his speech, I desired Harry to give me the substance of it, in the best manner he could ; which he did thus : “ You far water stranger, your skin is whiter than ours ; white, like the

“ moon shining in the night ; can you ex-
“ pect our actions to be whiter than yours ?
“ What are the things I know, I hear, I see ?
“ Has not the wind of voices gone through
“ the trees, and by the side of the shore, that
“ my brothers and sisters have given their
“ flesh and their blood to mix with yours ?
“ Shew me more friendship than this, and
“ we then shall own it is whiter than ours.
“ Now we hear the voice in the wind saying,
“ Oh ! the blackness is coming with the
“ bird which devours the dead. Must we
“ not all go to sleep ? Does not the bird
“ of death pick the flesh from the bones ?
“ Our sister here, shall she return without
“ the covering of affection, because her
“ love is gone to sleep ? Could she keep
“ him awake any longer ? or, tell us, did
“ she put him to sleep ? You will say,
“ No, no, no. Awaken again his spirit,
“ as it is in your power, that she may once
“ more find joy and laughing hours ; lest

“ the wind carry the sound of black sorrow
“ among our people, and so they should for-
“ get their way to this place.”

During the time Harry was giving us the substance of this oration, my friend Bell stood with his arms folded, and his face to the ground. When it was finished, he walked backwards and forwards in great agitation; and, observing the impression of great trouble in my countenance, he came up to me and said, “ Let me not be, for one moment, the cause of disquiet to my friend.” Then going to Eva, he took her by the hand, and leading her up to Gatta-loon, took his hand likewise, and led them both up to me. He then began thus: “ Observe me well, I now declare “ before you all, that in order to make up “ all differences, and to unite us all to-“ gether by the strongest ties of friend-“ ship and love, I do now take Eva as my “ wife.” Then, kissing her, said, “ Tell

“ your good friends that you accept me
“ for your husband ; and tell them like-
“ wise, Harry, that I will do my best en-
“ deavours to drive away all the black sor-
“ row ; and the voice in the winds shall in-
“ form them that I have roused the spirit of
“ our departed friend in my own bosom, for
“ the comfort of their sister, whom I have
“ taken to be my wife.”

I desired Harry to explain at once to our friends every thing that Bell had declared. The effects were soon visible, as every countenance was illuminated with joy. I took him by the hand, and thanked him for his willingness to make us all happy, and that he could not give me a kinder proof of his attachment than by this generous conduct. We now determined to spend the remainder of the day with our friends in mirth and innocent jollity. They seemed fully satisfied with our attentions to them, and heartily joined in the general festivity.

The next day the Indians took their leave of us, and went away in good spirits. It was now the middle of December, and Bell proposed that we should make a new crawl for our turtle, within the mouth of our home lagoon, before the next season came on. This I approved of much, and he, with Harry, went to work about it. This business took up about a fortnight of their time.

One day while my two messmates were down at the new crawl, as I was removing some things from the interior part of the cave, Bell's little budget fell down open at my feet. The contents were as follow: A clasp knife; a razor and hone; a lancet, and some other trifles. There was likewise a small rag made up very curiously, which I did not chuse to unloose, for fear it might give him offence; therefore left it as I found it. When he came home, I asked him what was tied up so carefully in that rag.

“ You shall see,” said he ; and he ran to fetch it. He took some pains to undo all the foldings, and then shewed me a stone about the size of a common sleeve button, which he told me was a valuable diamond ; that he purchased it of an Indian from the Rio de Plata for fifteen pieces of eight. There were in the rag four more, but of much smaller size. As I had never seen any thing of the kind in its natural state, I should have put but small value upon it ; but he told me it was worth at least one thousand pounds.

“ Well, then,” said I, “ you are a very rich man, not worth one farthing.”

On this he gave a Spanish shrug with his shoulders, and made use of a common phrase among those people, “ totus une, tam bien.”

I must here remark that he had so much the air and accent of a Spaniard, that I should never have suspected him to be of

any other nation. Having been so long among them, he had contracted all their habits and manners ; and his complexion being very dark, and his hair long and black, gave him quite the appearance of a native Spaniard.

Thus our time passed on smoothly. Norman Bell was quite satisfied with his wife ; and we were altogether become a happy family. We should have found things much otherwise if any ill blood had subsisted between us and the Indians our neighbours. About this time I had a mind to learn whether Harry or Somer had ever informed Bell respecting our treasure. I began, therefore, by dropping hints about the pirates, and of their custom of hiding money, &c. He said he had learned enough about them from the Spaniards ; but I found he was quite ignorant of my secret. One morning as he was busy with his razor and hone, I asked him what he would take

for his diamonds in ready cash. He smiled at this, and said, "Do you know any jeweller in the neighbourhood who would purchase them?"

"Yes," said I, "I do. Suppose I am the jeweller, what would you value them at? Will you let me have them on paying down five hundred dollars for them?"

"I should be glad we were safe in England with such a sum each," said he.

"Without trifling, are they mine or not for what I have offered?" I replied.

"Yes, yes," he cried, and put them into my hands; saying, "Now, down with the dollars."

"Come with me to my counting-house, then," said I. He looked astonished, and seemed to wonder what would come next. I took him by the hand to lead him away.

"You are in a merry humour to-day," he replied.

To keep him no longer in suspense, I

disclosed all my treasure to him. When he cast his eyes over it, he was so struck that he could not express his astonishment.

“ The diamonds are mine, messmate,” said I. “ There is cash sufficient to discharge the contract.”

“ Troth, man, that is true; but how came ye by it?”

I then gave him the whole story, and bid him call for his cash as soon as he pleased, as it was ready for him at any time.

“ Troth, man,” said he, “ it is as safe in your bank there as in any other part I can remove it to; so e'en let it remain.”

“ Well, then, as you see I have money enough to pay for them, take them and put them up in your pack again. What is mine is equally yours.”

He squeezed me by the hand, and begged permission to throw his jewels into the general stock. Thus ended our friendly treaty.

On the 9th day of February, my wife brought me a couple of fine children at a birth ; the women were all greatly pleased with the novelty, and were very profuse in their congratulations on the occasion. There was now some little altercation among them, as to what name should be given to the children, the one being a boy, the other a girl. Upon this I said, to do my wife honour, we would call the girl by the name of her country, America. She was much pleased with this, and said, if I was willing, she would give the boy a name that she knew would please me.

“ Well then,” said I, “ be it so ; what shall he be called ?”

“ Somer,” she replied.

“ Thou art a good creature,” I said, “ nothing could be more agreeable to me ; it was the name of a good man, and will, I hope, be preserved amongst us to our latest generation, and that my son will never disgrace it.”

I now began to think we should be more secure and comfortable, by some little fence before the entrance of our dwelling; and one day Norman being out in the wood cutting a few poles for that purpose, he came flying down the hill in a terrible fright, crying and bawling out, “ Harry, “ Harry ! messmate !” I ran out, and asked him what was the matter.

“ Oh !” said he, “ here’s the de’il coming down the brae, as fast as the wind.”

I at once snatched up my gun, and desired to know where it was. Harry ran for his maschut, and the women scrambled away with the children. “ Come, come,” said I to Bell, “ take up that little hatchet and follow us.” So away we went together up the hill, but could discover nothing.

“ Where is your de’il, Norman ?” said I.

“ I am sure,” he replied, “ I saw a terrible large tiger, or leopard, such as I have before seen at shows of wild beasts in England.”

Just then, Harry cried out, "there he is yonder over the cleft behind the grove."

I immediately fired, but missed. I then ran down and brought up a shell ; the others did the same, and the moment we began to sound the shells, he quitted the field, and we saw no more of him. During all this hurry, Harry said he was sure he had heard a shell at a distance. I thought he was mistaken ; but he was positive, and said he would go and look out. He did, and soon cried out, "boats ! canoes !" We then ascended ourselves, and plainly discovered three canoes. I immediately ordered the yawl to be got ready, and hoisted our colours ; then leaving the women, down we went to meet them. As they came near, we gave them three cheers, and began to sing as usual ; they answered, but not so heartily I thought as in times past ; however, we preceded them up the lagoon, and then landing, I received my friend Owagamy in the most friendly manner possible ; Bell

and Harry did the same by all the rest. They were nine in number, and all armed, which was not their general custom. After we had given them some liquor out of the little that remained in store, I called for our pipes, but they declined the offer; I began to dread the consequences, as I saw plainly a storm was ready to burst. After a short silence, Owagamy, beginning to survey the place round, over each shoulder, asked some questions of Harry. I began to grow a little warm, knowing we did not deserve this treatment, and boldly bade Harry tell me at once what was the matter, and what it was that Owagamy enquired after? He said it was whether we all lived in peace and love together, and that he had informed him, never more so, Owagamy then replied, that was well.

“Tell Eva to stand forth,” said I, “and if she has any complaint to make, or any grievance on her mind, let her declare it before them all.”

Owagamy then questioned her a few words, when I observed him cast his eyes on Norman, and smile.

“ Now, now, merry all,” said Harry.

“ How so ?” I replied.

“ Because she tell how Norman love her very well.”

I then desired my wife to give her friends a full account of the affair from first to last ; of my friend’s first objections, and his ready compliance afterwards ; which I supposed would fully satisfy him. She did as I desired ; and having ended her narration, Owagamy burst into a fit of laughter, and all the Indians did the like. Upon my inquiry into the cause, Owagamy led up to me Eva’s brother, whom I had not before seen, and made him join hands with Bell and me, to testify good fellowship between us. I then asked Harry what made them laugh so ; he said Owagamy accused Eva of making all the cold blood herself ; that

she should have let Mr Bell alone to chuse the plaintain for himself, and not have begun so soon after her husband's death ; but he supposed she was so fond of white flesh, that she was afraid Jessy would snatch it from her, and therefore took care to bespeak him as soon as possible. As it was now settled, he wished to fasten the knot as tight as possible, and therefore proposed they should be re-married in their presence, if I had no objection. To this we all consented. And in addition to the ceremony, and to add to the merriment of the company, Bell took his wife by the hand, and in a moment very dexterously lifted her on his shoulder, then began dancing, and sung the following lines, parodied from an old Scots ballad :

“ Fye let us a' to the bridal,
“ For there will be lilting there,
“ Now Bell's to be wedded to Eva,
“ The lass with the coal-black hair.”

After this he danced about as if he had no burthen on his shoulders, and cut such capers as amazed us all, and much more the Indians. He was full six feet high, and his wife small, and light in person, so that he made no more of her than a feather.

Now all faces wore cheerful aspects, and my friend Owagamy was the first to call for pipes, and we all sat down smoking together. To complete the entertainment of the company, Bell began to give them a sample of his Merry Andrew tricks. He desired a ring to be made, and opened the farce with a thousand monkey antics, and mimicry of the drollest kind. He then said he would shew them a specimen of his slight-of-hand. For this purpose he stript himself, and taking a small stone, put it into his mouth, and in a short time drew it from under his arm, and so conveyed it from one part of his body to another, to the great amazement of the company. He then began to tumble, walk on his hands,

and the like. As he was doing this, Eva ran and caught fast hold of him, dreading lest he should fall. This made Owagamy laugh, and say that she was afraid he would break in two pieces, he supposed, and there was no other white man likely to fall to her share. He pleased the Indians so much, I thought they would have eaten him up alive. They did every thing but worship him. They supposed I could do the like if I pleased ; but I desired Harry to inform them of the contrary, which they wondered at. The sport was kept up all the day ; and thus ended the wedding, to my great comfort. The next morning I thanked Bell for his affability, and for keeping up the good humour of the company so long and so well. He said, he had been so many years out of practice, that he was quite stiff in his joints, and could scarcely walk.

The Indians now gave us a formal intimation, that one of their company, called

Looso-yamy, was brother to Eva. I asked why they had not informed us of this when they first came. Harry said it was because they thought there was a blackness over us. I bid him tell them, they should never find any blackness proceed from our side; the whole mistake had arisen from Eva's supposing it was my intention to send her away after her husband's death. It was so, he said, and all were now satisfied. Owagamy then told Harry they could stay no longer with us this time, as they had other affairs to transact when they returned. So they took an affectionate leave of us the next morning.

The day after they left us, Owen brought me the skin of a snake almost entire, as a curiosity. Harry told us, that when these reptiles want to discharge themselves of their old coat, they endeavour to find out some old knot hole in a tree, or some such aperture; through these holes they pass, and

by that means leave their old skin behind them ; after which they are obliged to keep retired for some time, as their new skin is too tender for travelling. At the season of the year which is their breeding time, I have seen multitudes of snakes near some run of water, in bunches or masses, twisted together in such strange combinations, that it was wonderful to observe them. Thus entwined together, they tumble and roll about, and you may approach them as near as you please without fear of danger, as they cannot separate. I have seen at least a dozen in one bunch, and of different kinds.

C H A P. XXIV.

FIFTEENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

My new friend had now resided about a year with me, and we were quite happy in each other's society. One day we took it into our heads to ramble into the woods with our guns. As we were passing along he took up a plant, and, shewing it to me, said it was a fine narcotic. He then pointed out several others, telling me the virtues of each. He said, that as Harry and he were one day at Tower's Field, he saw plenty of large reeds growing; and that with a little patience and contrivance he

thought he could form a sort of flute with them. I bid him take care that his love of music did not lead him into danger, as the place he mentioned was full of alligators.

"Never fear, my friend," said he, "we will find some way or other to get them; 'tis but to make up a good fire, and the alligators will soon retire."

"Take care," I replied, "that you do not make such a bonfire as I did when first I landed here, which I verily believed would never be extinguished."

"Be not afraid," said he; "leave that to Harry and me; we will be cautious enough."

Soon after, they went to fetch some salt, and brought some of the canes home with them. Nothing went forward now but making of flutes. I contrived to make him an iron tool out of a spike nail, to burn the holes; but not knowing how to adapt the holes to the bore, the instrument when made was never true in tune. Error at

last gave experience, and experience brought the matter nearer to perfection. At length, therefore, a flute was produced tolerably good and true. Our wild forest now became acquainted with, and learnt to echo the charming melody of 'Tweedside,' 'Ettrick Banks,' 'Invermay,' and many other such popular airs ; and many an hour has his pleasant pipe charmed away for me in this forlorn and desolate wilderness.

Harry became so enamoured with music that he was always piping. Norman seeing this, gave him instructions, and he came on very fast. The women caught the sounds, and learnt all the tunes they played. The Indian women have a charming natural sweetness of voice. The children took it from them, I joined in the chorus, and our retreat re-echoed with plaintive or joyful melodies.

Thus time went on till the middle of August, when, as we were one day out turtling,

I discovered a vessel in the offing, standing away to the north-east. This sight made Bell thoughtful. After some time looking at the ship, he said, "Why could not we venture to sea in our long boat, and by leaving this place stand some chance of revisiting our native country?"

"Where would you propose to go?" said I; "you could not think of keeping the seas long in an open boat?"

"Could we not keep the shore aboard always?" he replied.

"But where bound?" I said.

"Why, I think we might get to the coast of Carolina well enough in her."

"What, to round all the bays, points, and reefs, my friend! Only consider the vast Bay of Mexico and others; with many difficulties it is impossible to foresee or provide for."

"But suppose we could conquer these, we should soon horse through the Gulf of Florida."

“ Don’t reckon without your host. Let me hear, in the first place, how you would lay your plan for such a grand undertaking; and if I cannot give better reasons for continuing where we are, I will join you in it.”

“ I would first raise the long boat a strake higher,” said he, “ and make us a good snug cuddy forward, with lockers abaft; then for sails, we have canvas enough, you know.”

“ Yes; but provisions, how would you obtain a sufficient quantity of them? Do you think such vegetables as we daily consume would last long? And where could you stow a sufficient quantity of water, or find room for our family?”

“ As for the family,” he said, “ we need only take our wives and children, the rest might return to their own people again; which I suppose they would prefer to going with us.”

“ Stop there, my friend,” said I. “ My family are all dear to me ; and wherever I go, they shall accompany me. I look upon Harry as a part of myself. Was not his sister my wife, by whom I have had two children ? Could I be guilty of such a piece of ingratitude to such an honest faithful creature, who would, at a word of mine, brave the whole ocean to bear me company throughout the universe ? Have you forgotten the lecture which the Indian, **Gatta-loon**, so lately delivered to us ? Shall we, like the vulture, produce the darkness of death ? and, as he observed to us, if the Great One had made our complexions whiter than theirs, so should our actions be likewise. The voice in the wind should sound only of our friendship and benevolence to them. Independently of the cruelty of your proposal, the scheme itself is absolutely impracticable. Nothing but the miraculous interposition of Providence could

save us from destruction, and we have no right to presume upon that interference. The desire to visit our native country is strong in every breast; the motive is honourable; let the means of obtaining it be equally so. If a favourable opportunity should occur, we may embrace it; but it must be such a one as will contribute, without exception, to the happiness of all. Till such shall arrive, let us make ourselves happy and contented where we are, and bless God for the comforts and conveniences he has been pleased to favour us with in this wilderness. I know not if the change of condition might be considered as a benefit. Here we lead a life of quiet enjoyment and peaceful innocence. In the world again, surrounded with temptations, we might become the victims of dissipation and extravagance, and lose that serenity of mind which, in our present state, gives a zest to our occupations as well as our

amusements. I trust, my good friend, you will admit the objections I have stated to your scheme, and the grounds on which I form them, to deserve your very serious attention. In whatever light you may view them, you will at least do me the justice to believe that my motives are pure and disinterested, and that they are proofs of the sincerity of my friendship for you, as well as my anxious desire of promoting your happiness in every situation."

" Say no more, messmate," said he. " I am willing to conform in every thing to your will ; and must confess, from what you have now said, that I see things in a different light."

We now dropped the subject ; and having met with tolerable success in our turtling scheme, returned to our habitation.

It was now about the middle of October ; and about ten o'clock in the evening

there came on such a terrible gale of wind, that before two hours it blew a hurricane, shifting all round the compass; every small article was blown down; and had we not been sheltered by a large grove of trees in front, forming as it were a wall, which protected us from its fury in that part, I know not what would have been the consequences. Yet notwithstanding this screen, the wind would come with such an eddy and whirl round our place, that I ordered all our fire to be extinguished, fearing it might be blown among the thatch, and so burn down our kitchen again. About three o'clock in the morning Eva called me out of the cave to " come and see !"

" See what ?" said I.

" The great blaze in the clouds," she said.

When I got out, Bell called to me to know what I thought of it. I was quite at a loss to account for it.

“ Let us endeavour to mount the hill,” said he ; which we did, and were obliged to bawl as loud as possible, for the wind was yet so high, that we could scarcely keep our legs, or hear each other’s voices. When we arrived at the top, we could plainly perceive a most dreadful fire at sea, at about three leagues distant. This could be nothing but a ship on fire. She continued to burn for more than two hours after we first discovered her ; how long before it was impossible for us to say. As the day came on we saw no more of her. About noon it fell dead calm, and we began to gather up our things that were scattered abroad by the wind.

“ Well,” said I to Bell, “ have we not great reason to thank God for our security and preservation during the last tempestuous night ? What would those poor souls who were in the vessel have given to have been in equal safety ?”

“ Alas !” he replied, “ fire or water has been their destruction before this time.”

“ That you may be assured of,” said I, “ no boat could live in such a sea. This is a severe lesson to us to be content with our situation. We might have been on the ocean in our poor open long boat if I had given way to your scheme. What must then have been our condition ? and how would our distress have been aggravated by the reflection that it was our own doing ; that we had voluntarily left a secure and peaceful habitation to trust ourselves to the fury of the winds and waves ? Let us, therefore, my fellow pilgrim, cease to repine at our condition, and resign ourselves entirely into the hands of him who is in all our paths ; who hath delivered our souls from death, and our feet from falling, that we might walk before him in the light of the living.”

The next day we proposed to make an excursion along the shore, as probably some part of the wreck might be found, that would lead to a discovery as to what nation she belonged to, and where bound. We returned fatigued and disappointed without finding any thing: nor from that time did a single stick ever come on shore except a few half burnt staves, which gave us no information.

About two days after this melancholy affair, whilst Harry was at the old plantation, in the canoe, a poor dog came creeping to him, almost starved to death. He lifted him into the canoe, and brought him home; the poor thing seemed quite exhausted, and could not stand. I ordered that all possible care should be taken of him, giving him but little food at a time. The dog was a black and white spaniel, of the largest breed, and though in such low condition, was very handsome, and pro-

bably once much valued by his owner. This poor beast had certainly belonged to the unfortunate ship that was burnt, but in what manner he came to land we could not imagine, unless the crew had happily made their escape, and had left this dog behind them on the shore; but in this case they must have landed somewhere about the whale point, as we got no sight of them.

“Perhaps they may be there yet,” said Bell.

“God grant they may,” I replied, “that we may give them assistance; they must stand in great need of relief, as I know by my own experience.”

Bell expressed a great desire to go and search for them.

I said, “by all means, let us save life, if possible.” I desired that Harry would act as pilot, as my friend Bell had never been there before. I likewise proposed that

they should take the spaniel along with them, as he was now much recovered, and might probably greatly assist them in their search ; if any people were there the dog would soon find them out.

They set off early the next morning, and did not return till the evening of the next day. The first thing I saw was the spaniel, who came up to me with great joy ; I then ran down to the landing place to welcome my companions, asking them what news ?

“ None of any service,” said Bell.

They came home with me, and gave an account of their expedition. They had examined the whole coast, even into “ Boom-bay,” as I called it. While they were on the beach, the dog put off, and ran away ahead to something they saw at a good distance ; they followed him, and when they came up, found the corpse of a young man. They at first intended to bring it

home in the boat's bottom, but finding it very offensive and putrid, they stripped the body, and buried it in the sand, bringing the clothes with them. They were certain, they said, the dog knew the deceased, as, when they were digging the grave, the creature sat, as it seemed very melancholy, looking on the whole time; but when they came to strip the body, and remove it to the place of its interment, the poor animal began to howl and whine sadly. When they had covered the grave up, he went and lay down on the spot, and staid there, looking after them as they walked away. Having walked about fifty yards, they called to him, and he came after them slowly, every now and then looking back, but at length followed them freely into the boat.

Mr Bell described the corpse to be that of a young man about twenty, middle size, with sandy hair; his dress a striped fine

shirt, petticoat trowsers of good white linen, with a jacket of the same kind, to which his hat was fastened by a laniard. He had a pair of white fustain breeches under his trowsers, and in the left pocket he found a clasp knife, and a small bunch of twine ; in the other a note, from which we learned his name to have been Richard Green ; and in one of his trowser pockets was a song in manuscript, beginning thus, “ Early one morn, a jolly brisk tar,” &c. From these circumstances we had no doubt but they were English, or at least that this unfortunate youth was our countryman. We took some pains to find out the dog’s name, and at last determined it to be Rover, as he answered to it better than any other, by coming whenever he was called by it. In about a month’s time he had completely recovered his flesh, and began to look very handsome. I believe nothing but absolute necessity reconciled him to a fish diet.

Some time after this, my son Owen shot a snake of the barber's pole sort, and came in a great hurry to tell me he had killed a snake with two heads. I laughed at him, and said it could not be.

“ Hoot, hoot, mon,” said Bell, who was standing by, “ the boy is winnel-skewed, as I thought myself when you shewed me a' that gear yonder in the neuk.”

“ Pray, Bell,” said I, “ explain to me that word, if you please ?”

“ Why, it is a saying among our people in Scotland, whenever they mistake one object for two, that the moon is in the hallior or clouded, and at such times they are winnel-skewed, or their eyes deceive them.”

Upon this Harry went with Owen, and they brought it up to us on a stick, when to our very great surprise, we found the creature really as he had described it. This snake was not above two inches round, and

in length about four feet. About five inches from the natural extremity of a single head, began two necks to branch out, terminating with two fair and perfect heads completely formed, both capable, as it appeared, of performing all their necessary functions. Of this we thought ourselves sufficient judges, as the creature was not yet dead, and opened each mouth, and played with both tongues alike. We were so struck with this wonderful phenomenon, that I made Harry skin and stuff it with the greatest care, and we have it now by us. I asked Harry if he had ever heard of such a thing before ? He said never. If it had not been submitted to the evidence of my own senses, I should have expected some deception.

It was now by our account the 23d of December. I told Mr Bell that my mother always made it a rule to have a goose at Christmas, and that we would endeavour to have something like it, if possible.

"At what market will you buy it?" said he.

"We will try for a substitute. You and Harry shall go to the Bird Key with your guns, and there you will find game enough."

So away they went the next day, and brought home three boobies, and five redshanks.

"Now," said I, "if we can but catch a couple of fine red snappers, I think we shall be well provided with a Christmas dinner."

We therefore took our lines, and went down the lagoon, but had not the success I hoped for. As we returned, Harry killed a large barrowcooter. I told him those fish are sometimes poisonous, and asked if he knew how to prove them? He said, no.

"Well then," I replied, "when they go to cook it, boil it alone, with a clean piece of silver. If the silver does not turn

black the fish is good, and may be eaten without danger." We tried the experiment, and the fish proved excellent.

Soon after this poor Godart Somer's orphan daughter, Hannah, died of a fever. Bell tried all his skill to save her, but in vain. We therefore laid her by the side of those who had before departed from our little society.

About a month after Christmas, Bell almost lost the use of one of his hands. He had been out alone to fish, in the Indian canoe ; among other fish he had taken, was one called the doctor fish, by which he was wounded. This fish has a sharp bone on each side of its tail. The bone is not perceptible to a person unacquainted with the fish, as it has the power to lay it close to its side, or erect it at pleasure. It is so keen, that no lancet can be more so, which instrument it much resembles in form. The whole fish is of a purple brown, and about

the size of a middling haddock. He brought home at the same time two others of a peculiar kind and form. The first is called by our seamen a parrot fish,* and with great propriety I think, as the whole fish is green, except the fins, which are red. It has very large scales, but its bill or mouth is not formed after the manner of other fish, having a pair of bones resembling the beak of a parrot, with which it mashes or cracks small shell fish. The whole roof of the mouth is also one hard bony substance. The other sort is very similar to the above, except in the colour ; instead

* Two curious fishes are exhibited on the Steyne, which were caught in the night by the fishermen ; who, on drawing their nets, brought up a round old wicker basket, containing those two curious fishes, being about the weight of four pounds each, and nearly the shape of a cod fish, and of a white shiny scale, with the mouth like a parrot's bill ; a very small round head, nearly made like a parrot's head, with a stumpy tail.—*Brighton, August 18. 1807.*

of green it is a perfect blue, and is called in Providence, the gillambour, the derivation or meaning of which I know not.

Bell's hand remained in a very bad state for more than a fortnight, and at times gave him great pain. Having tried a variety of experiments himself, he at last put himself under my wife's care. She proved the more successful doctor of the two, and completed the cure in about five days, by applying the juice of certain herbs to it. When it was well, I joked him about the doctor fish, telling him that two of a trade seldom agreed. "I shall take care for the future," said he, "when one of them happens to pop his nose into my shop, to let him know that I will be the master."

A day or two after, Harry brought in from his traps a very curious little animal, such as I had not seen before. Bell, however, knew it at once, and called it an armadillo, saying, there were many of them away to

the southward. It was of a light ash colour, and about the size of a young sucking pig, and somewhat resembled one, only it was of a slighter make, and the tail much longer; but what is most remarkable, it appeared to be covered with an armour of shells. I asked Harry if his people ever eat them? He said, yes. "Cook it then," said I, "and let us taste it." Bell said no chicken could be more delicate; and so indeed we found it.

I now proposed to Bell that we should turn up our yawl and large canoe, in order to examine and give them a thorough repair. This we went about, and I found my poor old canoe like a honeycomb. Upon this I set Owen to peg making. We secured her bottom as well as we could; but she was become old and worn. As for the yawl she was likewise full of the worm; but yet in a much stronger state than my poor old ark of preservation. I found by

mixing a good quantity of sand with our pitch and tar, it became more serviceable to us, in paying and preserving our boats.

After we had completely fitted up our two boats, and mended their sails, made a pair of new oars, and some thowls, I proposed a day of recreation for our whole family. When the day came, we all mustered, having provided what was necessary, and put away down the lagoon ; myself, my wife, and three children, with Harry, in the yawl ; Bell, his wife, Patty, and Jessy, in the great canoe ; Owen, Job, and Luta, in the Indian canoe. Owen was boatman, as he could paddle very well, being now near ten years of age. However, when the wind sprung up, I took them in tow, and thus we arrived safe at the old plantation, where we landed and left the females and children, with Harry to guard them. Bell and I, with little Owen, went out into deep water, in order to catch a few groupar and the

like, in our yawl. We laid her to, in about twelve fathom water, and let her drive over the patches of the rocks, as you can see the bottom distinctly at that depth in this part of the world. We had not been long on the ground before we had fine sport. We hauled in, and baited as fast as we could ; but it happened while I was engaged with a large groupar, a shark came up in full chace after it. I pulled as eagerly as possible, yet he got hold of it before I could bring it to the water's edge, and left me no more than its head to my hook. While we were contending which should have the fish, another shark, being likewise in chace of it, by some mistake, in the struggle bit his antagonist. Seeing the eagerness of this fish, I bid Bell hold on, and play him well, in order to tire him ; but he, not being so much used to this kind of sport as Harry and I were, through too great hurry fell down backwards in the

boat, crying, “ Hoot, hoot, mon, what sort of muckle horned de'il is dealing with us now ?” Owen burst into violent laughter. I took the line ; we soon tired the fish, and brought him alongside, and I gave him his quietus with an axe, which I brought with me for the purpose, if necessary. It proved to be the very shark which had snapped away my fish from the hook. The other had bit him into the bone, through a part full seven inches thick. In about an hour we took as much fish as we wanted. If we had had the inclination we might have filled our boat. I gave the line into Owen’s hand. He expected to perform great feats with it, but he shortly called out lustily for my assistance. I took him round the waist, and bade him pull with all his might ; but he soon resigned the line to me, or he would have been overboard inevitably. I hauled in the fish ; and we then stood in for the old place, where we had left our

little family. We found a good fire, and every other necessary preparation for cooking, as my wife said, she could plainly perceive, by help of the glass, that we had good sport.

We had not been long landed before we heard Jessy cry out lustily. I sent Harry to know what was the cause. He soon came back, and snatching up his musket flew off like a dart, and we after him. We now discovered Jessy standing with a load of dry wood on her head, and Harry chopping at a large black snake, which lay right in the narrow path ; it was at least six feet long, but not in the least venomous, as we well knew. Harry having killed, brought it to the fire to roast. Having cooked it to his liking, he offered us a part ; but we declined it, our stomachs were set to better fare.

“ What the de'il are ye about ? ” said Bell. “ These Indians wad devour the

auld whaap-neb himsel' gin he were weel
cooked, and sup the broth after."

" Why, Norman," I replied, " you
don't know that I have eaten of them be-
fore now, and really they have no bad fla-
avour."

" Weel, then, ye had better, the next
ye find, get one of their muckle tree pad-
docks for sauce to it," said he.

In the evening we all embarked, and got
safe home to our dwelling. Our stock of
liquor was now got so low that we seldom
touched it except in cases of necessity. We
now began to repair the damages in our
thatch, which had happened during the late
tempest; and this took us up some time.
Our plantain trees suffered also. Thus
matters went on smoothly, without any
variation of circumstances, to the expiration
of another year.

C H A P. XXV.

SIXTEENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

IT happened one day as Harry and Owen returned from fishing, they brought to me a curious bunch or whisp of some living substance, resembling catgut, and of the same pale yellow colour. It was so interwoven, that we could not by any means separate it; neither could we discover either end so as to find head or tail, yet it kept in continual motion, and might be, as we judged, twelve fathoms in length. I had seen one of them before, which I found in the stomach of a groupar; but whether

bred in the maw of the fish, or taken in as food, I know not. This which I am now describing came up with the hook.

This singular insect leads me to the description of another which I found one day in the woods, about four years ago. It was lying on the ground, and of a very peculiar shape. It was a hard substance, black as jet, and in form like our barbers curling pipes, and about the same length and magnitude. It seemed composed of a range of scales, and at each end had a small aperture. When on the ground, it could advance slowly with either end foremost with ease. I could neither discover eyes, mouth, or any detached member.

In the course of my residence in this place, I have seen many very curious and extraordinary things. Some of them have escaped my memory, as I had, during my first years, no means of recording them, and little expected ever to become master

of the materials for that purpose. Having naturally an inquisitive mind, I took much delight in prying into the works and wonders of nature ; and, I protest, in gratifying this disposition, I have seen such extraordinary things, that I have been almost afraid to mention them, lest my veracity might be doubted. Whoever shall travel much abroad, with his attention at all awake to such inquiries, will feel a similar embarrassment from the same cause.

I declare that I have advanced nothing in this book, that did not immediately pass under my own eyes ; and what interest could such a poor forlorn creature as myself have for imposing falsehoods upon the world, uncertain as I am, whether what I now write may ever fall under the inspection of any civilized being of any nation ? I was bred a sailor ; I write for the information of my brother tars ; with nothing more than a common education, and plain

sense. I do not address myself to the learned; I have no pretensions to their favour, and am perhaps beneath their censure. I make this digression concerning my work, because many things which I have seen and described in it may not have been noticed by others. The reason of which is obvious; travellers are perpetually moving from one place to another, and have scarcely time to note down all they see, and many of them are without the inclination minutely to examine into the wonderful works of nature, the various beauties of creation: whereas my life has been such, confined to these remote regions, that, with even common observation, I must have been deficient both in understanding and curiosity, not to have noticed and recorded, (when in my power so to do,) the many extraordinary things which have been submitted to my observation. I have considered myself as separated from mankind,

and set apart as it were for the very purpose, with time to pursue the inquiry, and particularly favoured by Providence with the means of recording what I should discover.

It happened one evening as Bell was reading over to me some Scots songs, and explaining the words I did not understand, all at once the earth began to lift us up and down, twice. We stared rather wildly at each other. Bell threw down the book and said it was an earthquake. We had soon after another shock, but much weaker. I had never felt any thing similar before. Bell said he had, since he had been in this country ; and had been shewn large hills and cliffs by the Indians which had been split from clew to earing by them, as the sailors term it ; but we were in no danger, he said, as there was no volcano in our neighbourhood. As the Indians paid but little attention to such a circumstance, the

impression soon wore off; and we considered it as an indication of great heat, which was really the case soon after.

The butterflies now became very numerous; much more so than I had at any former time observed during my residence here. It may not be amiss in this place to say something concerning them. They differ very much from what I have seen in Europe; are more wild and swift in flight, as they are frequently seen over the tops of the loftiest trees in the woods. To describe them would be endless and almost impossible, there are so many different sorts. I have seen many full as broad as the palm of my hand, and some much larger; and have found pods of the silk worm sticking in crevices of the rocks and clefts of trees. But there is one sort we sometimes found fixed to the limb of a small twig, five times the size of the ordinary sort, and of a dark brown colour

resembling oakum. These pods are so strong, that it is hard to rend them asunder. The fly which they produce is as broad as a man's hand, and of a beautiful variety of colours, grey, red, and white, with a pair of fine yellow feathers in front of its head. There is another sort of a brimstone colour, with a circle in each wing, which is as transparent as glass, with the after part of their wings tapering away like a swallow's tail. We sometimes met with a sort which were yellow, with bars running athwart, in a very regular manner, of black; another kind green, with black bars, transverse to the other sort.

I must here mention a very extraordinary circumstance, and for which I could never account. We have observed a kind of brown wasp, which, falling head foremost from the trees to the ground, there seems to take root; for a small plant springs up through its body. Bell's opi-

nion was, that it proceeded from some kind of seed they swallow, which intoxicates them, so that when the wasp falls to the earth these seeds take root and immediately begin to vegetate.

We were now visited by a single canoe with some of our friends. In it came So-ro-teet, or the crab-catcher ; Yewarra-basso, and Kayuaga. The two last had never been at our habitation before. These Indians came out of curiosity to see us, and brought with them two couple of young fowls as breeders ; adding that they were a present from Owagamy, with his heart, as they termed it, and that he had them sent to him from over the great hills. Their rarity added value to the present. Among other things, they informed us they had another of those people called moonlights born, a female, but that she soon died, which all were very glad of. This intelligence induced me to make some further in-

quiry concerning these extraordinary beings, but I could obtain no further satisfaction. In about three days they left us. When Soro-teet was on board the canoe, he reminded Harry of a flute he had promised to make for him; this I gave him my word should be done.

Some days after the Indians were gone, we heard a great noise among the fowls. Eva sent Job to see what was the cause of it. He soon came running out, and said Jacko had got one of the new birds in his arms, and was pulling out his feathers. I ran off immediately in a great passion, and found the monkey with a fowl in his lap, picking out its feathers one by one. He directly held out the fowl to me. I took it in one hand, and him by the head with the other, and brought them out. The fowl was not much injured; and to prevent his doing it again, I ordered Jacko to be tied up, and gave him a slight flagellation,

at the same time Job and Owen held the fowl's feathers to his nose. After this discipline we dismissed him ; but he grew very shy from that time, and whenever one of the fowls-happened to come near him he was off in an instant ; but when one of the young cocks began to crow, the monkey would rave and chatter, and run into the first corner he could find, and there clap his hands before his face. This caused much diversion to our young ones ; but he never touched any of the fowls after. Among the multitude of his tricks, one deserves to be recorded. One day I observed him very busy among the graves, and sent little Luta to see what he was at. The child came back and said Jacko had got a heap of round things in a hole. On this I went down myself and found the hole, sure enough, and that he had deposited in it more than fifty dollars. It is true they were of little service to us just then, but

the time might come when we might have occasion to use them. I therefore called Bell, who was down at the boat. When he came I shewed it to him, and said that Jacko had found a treasure likewise.

“ Ay,” said he, “ and yours is, I dare say, grown less.”

How the monkey made the discovery I know not; but he must have seen us at work there, as he had been at the labour of removing many stones before he could get at it. To prevent this in future, Bell and Harry removed the whole during the night, and no one knew where it was except them and myself.

C H A P. XXVI.

ABOUT the middle of August we had a most tremendous storm of thunder and lightning, with violent rain, but scarcely any wind. The large tree on which the vultures lodged at my friend Somer's death was split from top to bottom. I kept all the family within the cave during the time it lasted, which was about three quarters of an hour ; all then becoming calm, we ventured out.

“ Well,” said I, “ thank Heaven we are all safe.”

Shortly after my little Rees came and told his mother that one of our Indian dogs was so fast asleep that he could not get him to move. When Jessy went to see it, she found the dog quite dead ; it doubtless was killed by the lightning, as we could perceive no external mark of violence.

Not long after this, we had a most dismal accident indeed, attended with fatal consequences to us all. While we were out turtling in the bay, the cursed monkey overset a yabba, as it was boiling on the fire, by which my son Owen had one of his feet scalded. This accident so greatly alarmed them all, as they knew how much I loved the boy, that my wife sent Eva off immediately into the wood after certain roots, with which she was to make a poultice to draw out the burn. The poor creature ran off with affectionate haste, although she was then big with child. About four o'clock in the evening we returned

from fishing, and found the boy with his foot bound up, and were informed of the whole story. My wife said Eva had been gone a great while after roots and herbs, and wondered much that she was not returned. Sentence of death was at once passed on the monkey ; but the creature had been so diverting, and seemed so truly sorrowful for what had happened, that I could not find in my heart to carry it into execution ; but resolved to confine him within certain limits by means of a rope to be lengthened at pleasure. This was accordingly done, to prevent further mischief.

As the evening advanced, Bell grew very uneasy about his wife. He was fearful she had rambled beyond her knowledge, and had lost herself.

“ How can that be ? ” said I ; “ she has been all over the wood several times ; but at all events, you and Harry had better go off in search of her, with one of the shells.”

They set forward immediately, and did not return till the sun was quite down, but without any tidings. I began now to be very much alarmed, and advised that they should get torches, without loss of time, arm themselves, and set off again, as we had every thing to fear from her remaining alone in the forest after night. There could be little doubt but she would be devoured by wild beasts before the morning. Away they went, and we heard them almost the whole time shouting and hallooing. I ordered Patty to make up as large a fire as she could, as a direction for them to find their way back. Every now and then I blew a conch ; and thus with great anxiety, time passed on till midnight. Now all were in tears about me, and if I did not hear them every now and then, my soul was filled with horror lest they should be all lost. At length about two o'clock they came in. Bell was almost frantic with dis-

tress. No Eva could they see or hear of. I now began to be extremely affected for the loss of the poor woman, and the situation of my friend. I endeavoured to put the most favourable circumstances together, and used all my skill to keep up his spirits, yet I was strongly impressed with the notion that we should never see her more. Thus passed the time till the dawn, and then I proposed to go in search of her myself. I took Harry with me, and left Bell with the women, in the deepest affliction. We scoured the woods in the strictest manner till noon, but were obliged to return without having made any discovery. I now began to reflect on myself for my neglect in leaving the women by themselves. Had any one remained at home with them, in all probability this accident might not have happened; but at all events the dreadful consequences would have been prevented. But the fact was, that the complete secu-

rity I had so long enjoyed, had inspired me with a confidence bordering on rashness. Bell observing my deep affliction, and that I continued to accuse myself of negligence, desired me, with tears in his eyes, not to consider myself in any respect culpable; even if I had been at home, it was by no means improbable that the same accident might have happened. I told him, the impression on my mind was such, that from this time nothing should make me so far forget my duty to my family as to leave them without a protector, no, not for an hour.

“ My good brother,” said Harry, endeavouring to soften the anxiety of my mind, “ perhaps she is gone home to see her brother.”

“ Nonsense,” I replied, “ could she think of going so far without victuals, and alone? Impossible.”

“ You don’t know what the Indians can do, when the great ugly spirit is on them,” he said.

Bell replied, “ Though it is almost madness to entertain such an opinion, yet since Harry has started it, I am willing to flatter myself with the hope that it may be so.”

Three days passed away thus, in hope, in doubt, in fear. Harry now proposed to Bell to go overland with him to their people. I very much approved of this plan, as there was no knowing how the Indians might take this intelligence, if not informed of it by us. Bell agreed, and having armed themselves, they set off the next day, with some provision, and the dog Swift with them. I charged Bell to have his eyes about him, and strictly to follow Harry’s advice, as he knew the country well ; and if they found her there, to bring her back by water, but if the journey proved fruitless, to return as they went, by land, as by

such conduct we should be better prepared on their arrival. I said I would give them a fortnight, but if they did not return in that time I should be wretched indeed.

When they were gone, I began to form many conjectures to myself respecting the poor woman. Perhaps some strange Indians had met and taken her off with them, or she might be drowned by accident, or having wandered beyond her knowledge, had been starved to death, or what was more likely, devoured by wild beasts; in which opinion the women all joined. Thus we remained betwixt hope and fear, day after day. I never once left home further than to go down to the lagoon to catch a few fish for our daily subsistence, and that but seldom, as we lived chiefly on vegetable diet. In about a week after this, about nine o'clock at night, Owen cried out that he heard somebody halloo. We all ran out to listen, but could hear no-

thing. A short time after, he said he was sure he heard it again. We looked at each other in fearful anxiety. The solemn silence we observed increased our agitation. We were afraid to speak, and the silence became tremendous. We had no particular object of fear, yet all our senses seemed awake to the most dreadful apprehensions. We were soon undeceived, and the charm was broken, by hearing one of those nocturnal birds, which on my first landing had so terrified me. We now returned to our cave with heavy hearts; and our anxiety continued to increase, till the whole time allotted for their absence was elapsed, and yet no sign of their return.

About five days after this, Swift came running into the cave.

“Here they are,” I cried in a transport.

On going out, I perceived Harry and another Indian coming down the hill. My mind now misgave me at once, and I earnestly called out, “Where is Bell?”

When they came in, Harry said they had left him behind, being sick. Eva cannot be there, thought I. Harry said Eva never went there.

“ What is the matter with my friend ? ” said I. “ Tell me at once ; my mind is tortured by doubt and apprehension.”

“ He will return in a few days with some of our friends,” he replied.

I desired my wife to sound Gaynosanto the other Indian, and she told me, that after Bell and Harry arrived there the Indians held a private council. When they had done this, they told Harry they concluded Eva was either taken off by some strange Indians or devoured by the tigers, saying they knew me to be such a true friend that I would not consent to the spilling of any blood ; for with all their industry and vigilance, they could never bring such a charge against their white brother, united to them in flesh and blood.

“ What,” said I to her, “ have they employed spies to watch our conduct ; tell me, I charge you ?”

She then frankly owned that some of their people had been deputed on such an errand, and had actually been at times so near our habitation as to have a fair view of our domestic society and behaviour. I was at first very much hurt at this ; but considering that they came only to observe in what manner we treated their women, it struck me the motive was fair and honourable, though the practice betrayed a want of confidence ; yet even for this jealousy a ready excuse might be found. Perhaps their own experience of the conduct of Europeans on many occasions had given them no very favourable opinion of their honour and honesty, and excited a diffidence, which their own simplicity of manners would otherwise have revolted at. On this consideration I could not but commend them.

The friendship between us was cemented by the mutual exchange of good offices, and their knowledge of our sincerity and fair conduct.

All this time Harry seemed to be much on the reserve. I asked him the reason, and why he did not give me a full account of all that happened during their absence ? He said Owagamy had desired him to keep his mouth shut, as he himself would tell every thing when he came with Bell, and then Gaynosanto was to go back with him.

“ Why should they give me so much uneasiness ? ” said I. “ If Eva be there, let her return with her husband.”

Harry said, “ No, no ; she has been eaten by the tigers long ago, or starved to death.”

“ If so,” said I, “ why did he not return with you ? ”

He said, “ Owagamy sent me off with that man, thinking that you would grieve

at not having any tidings; but they will come soon, and then you will know all."

Well, thought I, if he has taken a fancy to reside with them, in God's name so let it be; I must reconcile myself to my first manner of life as well as I can.

More than a fortnight elapsed and yet no news of Bell. It then came into my head that the Spaniards had got some knowledge of him, and that the Indians had given him up. Yet this thought was doing injustice to my friends, who had ever behaved with the strictest honour and fidelity. About two days after, as Harry was coming out of the bushes, he spied three canoes coming into the bay. I immediately ordered our colours to be hoisted. We then got our boat ready and went down to welcome them as usual, as since Bell had left me I did not know how matters might be changed. Gaynosanto and I were alone in the boat. I had ordered Harry to stay

and guard the women. We met them at the mouth of the lagoon, and observed they had women with them. I now began to think they intended to surprise me with a sight of Eva again. After giving them a salute, we put away in before them. When we landed, Owagamy and Bell jumped on shore and came to us with a friendly salutation, which gave me great pleasure. I saw two women in the canoe, but they were strangers to me. When they came out, I led them up to the cave. I then began to enquire of Bell who the ladies were that had honoured me with a visit, as my wife did not know them. He took one of them by the hand, and presented her to me as his wife.

“ Hey day !” said I, “ if this be the case, much joy to you.”

He thanked me, and said the whole business had been conducted by my friend Owagamy and his council; and that he

had submitted, not from choice, but under the impression that if he declined the proposal it might prove a subject of discontent, and involve us in much trouble.

" You were very prudent, messmate," said I; " and I am heartily glad that matters have come to so pleasing a conclusion."

I now gave orders that things should be provided, in order to shew them every civility possible. They were all in high spirits. Owagamy informed me that the bride was a widow of about twenty-five years of age, named Aanora, or a thing desired. Bell satisfied me the next day as to his remaining so long among them. The account he gave was as follows: " Having informed the Indians with the motive of our visit, they called a council and took me to it. It was held in a large wig-wam. When they were assembled together, I was placed by the side of Owa-

“gamy. There was a profound silence
“for near half an hour, during which time
“twelve of them were smoking. At last
“an Indian got up and spoke to me in
“Spanish, saying that his people desired
“him (Gatta-loon) to be the one mouth
“or voice, through which I was to hear
“the sentiments of all. They knew, he
“said, that I was a true man, they saw
“my heart through my eyes; they were
“informed that I had lost my wife some
“days before I came to visit them; they
“were satisfied with my coming to them
“on this account; they should otherwise
“have entertained a different opinion of
“me. They knew the misfortune which
“had happened to me was not of my own
“seeking, but an accident for which I was
“no way accountable; and finding that I
“grieved so much for the loss, they were
“determined to keep me among them till
“they could find a plant proper for my

“ cure. It had cost them some trouble to
“ procure this remedy ; but they had at
“ length succeeded. It was a little droop-
“ ing for want of nourishment, as it had
“ been a dry time lately where it grew.”
An odd kind of noise was now heard, and
three women appeared at the door. One
of them was desired to come forward, Owa-
gamy rising, took her by the hand and
said, “ This is a woman, not of our na-
“ tion, but our friend ; she has lost her
“ nourisher, and by her own consent we
“ give her to thee. Cherish her in thy
“ heart as thou didst our sister Matta-
“ nany, now no more. Thou shouldst not
“ be without a wife, since thou knowest
“ so well how to nourish and protect one.
“ We have sent our valuable brother Gay-
“ nosanto, with Ayasharry, lest our great
“ hearted white brother Penoly should
“ want assistance in the mean time. We

“ will return with Aanora and thee to thy
“ friend as soon as convenient.”

When Bell had finished, I desired Harry to return them our most hearty thanks for the many testimonies of their love and friendship, and particularly for their great attention and kindness in soothing and comforting my friend after his melancholy loss, and providing him with so effectual and pleasant a remedy ; which I was sure, from the goodness of his heart and his sincere attachment to them, he would value as he ought. Harry informed them, by my desire, that I had no liquor to treat them with ; my stock was quite exhausted. Owagamy said that all things decayed in time except the sun, moon, and stars, no wonder therefore that our liquor was out ; they were always satisfied with the affectionate welcome they met with at our habitation. They staid with us five days, and then took their leave. Before they

went I distributed some pieces of blue cloth among them ; which, on examination, I was sorry to find were much injured by the moths.

When I was about to take my leave of Owagamy at the boat, and expressed my satisfaction at the friendly intercourse which had taken place with their people, and the regard I entertained for them ; he smiled, and told Harry, there was but one thing I had omitted to convince them of my good faith and confidence in them. I begged to know what that was, as I was not conscious of the slightest want of attention.

He said, "you have many times looked towards the place where we reside, but in all the time you have remained here, you have never willingly put one foot before the other to visit me and my people ; it is true you did not know the path through the wood, but Ayasharry can lead you by the hand, whenever your mind is willing."

I told him the sole reason of my never having performed that duty, was the great charge I had on me to preserve my family, who were of his kindred and nation ; but that he might acquaint his people, at his return, that I was now firmly resolved to pay them a visit the first fair opportunity. Upon this they all shouted. We went down the lagoon to see them off.

Harry and I could now make ourselves tolerably understood in Spanish, and we took every occasion of practising with Bell, who was kind enough to instruct us ; indeed, for my own part, I had a smattering of the language before, which I had learned when at the Havannah. I told Bell, if by any accident I should be discovered I was resolved to pass for a Spaniard ; that he should mark a cross on one of my hands, shave my beard, and plait my hair behind, after the Spanish manner.

He laughed at me, and said, " it would not do, my tongue would soon betray me."

" Leave that to me," said I, " I have formed my plan better than you imagine; as you shall hear. I shall call myself a native of Barcelona; that I went into the service of an English gentleman at Venice when a boy, and remained with him and others after I came to England for many years, by which means I lost my mother tongue in a great degree."

" Troth," said he, " that will do mon, if you can but support your part weel throughout; but your name, how will that answer?"

" In that you must assist me," said I; " but let it be as near my own as possible."

All this being determined upon, he first took off my beard, and then plaited my hair. My wife and the other females were exceedingly diverted at my transformation.

She said, that I was gone back many moons, and had brought back a little young head with me. Bell then put one of the old sombreros on my head, and making me a low bow, welcomed me to his habitation, by the name of Signor Louis Penalosa. While these operations were performed, Harry and Owen were absent. When I saw them coming, I put on a very grave look, and we all kept our countenances extremely well. Fully to describe their behaviour on this occasion is impossible. When Harry first discovered me sitting, so altered in appearance, he fixed his eyes on Bell, and looked quite foolish and confounded; but on hearing me speak, poor Owen burst into a flood of tears. I called him to me, but he ran to hide behind Patty, held fast by her, and cried quite aloud. Upon this Bell endeavoured to bring him to me, but he resisted with all his strength, saying it was not his father

he was sure. At last I called to Harry to come and shake hands with me.

"O!" said he, "I know it is you a little; not you sideway; one way your face so sharp; look like young calabash now."

"Thank you for your comparison, Harry."

He added, "You look like young Spaniard now; why you do so? You no love Spaniard."

"I do it to cheat them," said I.

"You no cheat our people; they smell difference soon enough."

Owen now began to be somewhat more composed, and smiled a little. He asked Bell what he cut his father for. My wife was much pleased with the alteration, and said every now and then, how pretty my new head looked, only she thought it quite too small. I told her it would soon grow larger, and in a few days the singularity of my appearance wore off.

I now desired Bell to mark my hand ; which he did with two small needles tied together, and filled the punctures with wet powder. It cost me much pain and patience before he had done. He had a similar crucifix on his own arm. To complete the deception, I proposed to make some smaller crosses to wear occasionally on our breasts. Bell, who was very ingenious, began immediately to work upon a dollar, out of which he cast two or three small ones, which exactly suited our purpose. This being done, the metamorphosis was complete, and I became a Spaniard.

I now told Bell that it would be necessary to give his lady another name, as such was our custom.

“ Troth gi'e her the name you like best,” said he.

No, I told him the choice was with him solely.

" Well then," he replied, " we will call her Janet, if ye like ;" and Janet was her name accordingly. My wife conveyed to her this intelligence, and she seemed mightily pleased with her new title.

About the latter end of March, as Bell and I were fishing in deep water, a prodigious large shark came ranging close in view. Bell said it was different from any he had seen before. We immediately baited the shark hook with the bowels of a fish, and threw it right before his nose. He flew like a dart from it at first, but returned immediately, and took it in voraciously. As we knew we had him fast, we gave him time, and he afforded us very capital sport. He plunged below with great strength and velocity to a great depth ; but as we humoured him, he soon grew tired, and let us haul him in sight. We now got a fine view of him. To our very great surprise we found the fish had a piece

of three inch rope in a knot just above his tail, and that it had been on him for a great length of time. The fag ends were about a foot long, and had, as we thought, been longer ; it was become white as flax. This fish was about sixteen feet in length, and the largest we had seen. It had many rows of teeth, and had doubtless been an old cruizer. Perhaps he had followed some ship from the coast of Africa to feed on the dead slaves, and had been taken and let go again, or made his escape. He was the true tiger shark, of a blue colour, with the tips and fins of his tail and fins yellow. We made several quarts of oil from his liver, which was of great service to us.

Speaking of fish, I must remark, that at times we found an odd animal running over the bottom in shoal places. It was of a triangular form, about the size of a large flounder, and carried its head erect as a hen does, with bright eyes, the back mottled

in a curious manner. It has four feet, or fins shaped like the back fin of a turtle, the tail resembling a fan, which with the fins or rather fin feet were edged with yellow. This creature can run along the bottom nimbly, and in deep water swims with ease. We never ventured to taste it, as we were fearful of the consequences.

We also found a sort of insect, or rather reptile, creeping in the shallow water, of a dark olive green, full of black circles. This creature advances in the manner our slugs do, dilating and contracting ; but the most curious part of the story is, that on being once touched, it instantly emits a most glorious purple liquid all round it to the distance of a yard or more, so that the animal is no longer perceptible.

About the beginning of May, my wife desired Harry to get her some sappadillos the next time he went into the woods. He promised he would. Soon after, Harry

told me in private that he knew what had become of poor Eva.

“Indeed!” said I, much surprised. “How came you not to tell me of it sooner?”

“Because I thought it would be a pity to let Bell know it, as it might make him miserable.”

“Well, and when did you make the discovery?”

“When I went last into the woods for the sappadillos. Come with me, and I will convince you of the truth.”

I immediately accompanied him up the hill, where, in a hole under some bushes, he shewed me the remains of the cloth she used to wear round her waist. My blood ran cold at the sight. I desired him to acquaint me where and how he found this. He said, as he was on his ramble about two miles off, he came to a thicket, where he first found a rib bone, and looking about

further he discovered the skull and other bones, with these rags, and knowing them directly, he said his great spirit came to him so strong, that if five tigers had been present he would have engaged them all.

“ Well,” said I, “ keep it a secret till I see a proper time to disclose it hereafter. On my return home I informed my wife of the whole, with a strict injunction not to speak of it without my permission ; for that my reason for telling her was, as a caution to prevent her going out at any time without a guard, and not to permit any of the women or children to wander out alone. It was not very long before a favourable opportunity occurred of informing Bell of this melancholy catastrophe of his poor wife Eva. He was greatly affected at the intelligence, as he expressed a sincere regard for her many virtues. He lamented her like a man who was not ashamed of his sorrow, but did not wish to obtrude it

upon others to damp their enjoyments. It made a lasting impression upon his mind, though he exercised a manly fortitude, in submitting to the will of the Almighty. Nothing particular happened till I had finished my sixteenth year.

C H A P. XXVII.

SEVENTEENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

I now commenced a new year, which was marked by a visit from Gatta-loon, with seven other Indians, all of them our old acquaintance. When we went to salute them, they all appeared very sad. They seated themselves and continued silent for a considerable time. At length Gatta-loon got up, and in a mournful strain made a long oration in Spanish to Bell, which I soon found was to convey the melancholy intelligence of Owagamy's death. When

he had finished, seeing me very dejected, he took me by the hand and said, "I am Owagamy now, and will love my friends and stand by them as long as they and I live. Your friends shall be my friends; and whoever would injure you shall feel the weight of my resentment." This was likewise said in Spanish, and we were all much pleased with the friendly assurance. We now informed them of poor Eva's fate, which they did not seem at all surprised at. They were before in a melancholy mood, and this did not enliven them. They staid with us but two days. Owagamy, they said, had charged them to be friends with us, and so they were determined to be. They were glad I had hit upon the expedient of passing for a Spaniard, of which Harry had acquainted them. They said it would take a great stone off their heads, which they had carried on my account a

long time, but that they had borne the weight of it willingly.

Owagamy had ever been a stedfast friend from our first acquaintance. He was a man of great penetration and forecast, much beyond what might be expected from an uncultivated Indian. The news of his death truly affected me. We had ever considered him as our best bower-anchor whenever storms arose ; and he, with our good friend Komaloot, were ever ready to stand our pilots and to conduct us safely into harbour secure from wind and weather. Remembering all their good and generous offices in the course of our acquaintance, I desired Gatta-loon to signify on his return our unfeigned sorrow and condolence to all friends ; which he faithfully promised to do. We then parted mournfully but affectionately.

One evening as I was reading, Owen came to me and said Mr Bell desired I

would come out and see the great rainbow.

“ A rainbow at night, boy ?” said I ; it being then near ten o'clock ; but as I knew something uncommon was to be seen, I went out ; and in the north-east was a large dense cloud, with a perfect bow of large magnitude, in colour somewhat like to skim milk ; but it was altogether more distinct than any one I had ever seen by day. Bell and Harry had seen them before ; but to me it was completely a novelty.

About this time our fishermen brought in two fish of a kind which I have not yet described. One of them is called by some seamen the ballahoo, if I am not mistaken. It is a fish long, round, and slim, shaped much like the garr-fish ; but differs much in all but the body. The upper fly of the tail being short, and the under one four times the length ; it has but few fins ; and

in regard to its mouth very singular, as the under jaw or mandible projects to ten times the length of the upper, terminating in a very sharp point, so that it is impossible it should seize prey as other fish do. But nature has given it such address, that when lying on the surface of the water, and perceiving its object, it instantly darts forward, as an arrow from a bow, piercing its prey with its lower bill, then sinking to the bottom, there it remains wounding it till it is no longer able to escape, and then devours it at pleasure. This fish is often to be seen in shoal water.

The other sort is a fish constructed much like the flying fish, but grows to the size of an ordinary mullet. It is curiously marked with blue, green, yellow, brown, and red ; the wings or fins are much longer than the whole body, tail and all, and almost transparent. When they are extended, they spread broader than a man's

hand, and are beautifully variegated with many colours.

I shall now give some account of the great variety of lizards we met with in this quarter of the world. The most common are called the lion lizard. They are to be met with in great numbers in the heat of the day, and are exceedingly swift of foot, although they seem to go much on the belly, which is chequered, very like our common English green snake. The back is striped horizontally from head to tail with delicate broad stripes of a brown and yellow colour, resembling velvet. The male is very vicious when after the female, and much larger. I have seen them above a foot in length. Their conjunction is lateral. When the male first espies the female, he protrudes a large bag from beneath his throat puffing out as full of wind, and drawing it back at pleasure, so that at other times it is not to be seen. This prac-

tice is common to the guano and all the lizard tribes.

Galliwasps. This is another species, frequenting the woods, and lurking much in holes in the ground, of a dark grey and black colour. The Indians say they bite sharply, but not poisonous, as reported by the negroes in the West India islands. They are of the largest kind of lizards, and if pursued take to their holes; but smoke soon dislodges them. They are also very indolent, remaining long in one place without moving.

Satin lizard is another sort. They are of a solitary disposition. You seldom find more than one in a place; and that always in the shade, under a rock or in the chinks and clefts of rocks, where they lurk day and night. I have known them remain in one place for three days and nights without once changing their position. They are striped black, brown, white, and grey,

and shine like satin as they move. They have one quality differing from all other kinds, which is the power of making their bodies so flat, that they can at pleasure adapt themselves to any small fissure or cleft they chuse to occupy.

I have mentioned that sort called the wood slave already ; but to go through all their varieties is beyond my power. Some are yellow ; others black, brown, and speckled. Some love the heat and driest time of the day ; others are seldom seen but after rains. In general they live upon insects, and have the tongue forked like the snake.

It happened one evening, after all my family were retired to rest, that my wife being awake, shook me, and when I answered her, she said some one or other of them was sick, as she heard a sad moaning. She had scarcely spoken when I heard it myself. I got up immediately and called

Harry ; finding him well, we visited all the rest. No person was the least ill or complaining, yet every now and then we heard sad and deep groans. We went to the dogs, but they were well and quiet. We were quite at a loss to account for this. Sometimes it ceased for a short time, then began again ; sometimes strong and deep, then again more faintly and weak ; and thus it continued till the dawn. We none of us went to sleep the whole night, except the children. Bell now started an idea that some strange Indians had perhaps discovered us, and they might make this sad moaning to draw us into the woods ; as the sound seemed to come from beyond the spot where we found the treasure. This notion I treated lightly ; as if such a discovery had really been made, and they came as enemies, they would have attacked and not alarmed us first to put us on our guard.

“ What if it should be the departed spirit of the victim they left as a guard over their treasure ?” said Harry.

This made us smile, but we had still fearful apprehensions. The women said they were sure some Indian or other person must be there in a dying state ; it might be some of our friends who had received some hurt on his way to visit us. This, I must confess, was very plausible, and made considerable impression ; the probability of it called for our immediate attention. I therefore told Bell that he and Harry might arm themselves and take the dogs with them to find out the cause. They immediately took guns, maschuts, &c. and set off boldly. In about twenty minutes they returned.

“ What news ?” said I. “ Have you found it out ?”

“ Found it out !” said Bell, with a very serious countenance, “ ay, ay, and if you

had been with us, you would have found it out also."

"Without hesitation, make me at once acquainted with it, whatever it may be ; I must be satisfied."

"It is one of the natives," said he, "of a most gigantic size, and dying as I believe ; but not one of our friends, as I never saw him come hither in their company ; nor do I think him of their tribe, as he differs greatly in colour from our friends. He shews not the least sense that we can perceive except that of pain, for he groans heavily."

All this time Harry kept aloof ; the women were gathered round to hear the story, and standing with open mouths. Bell, after he had given his account, began to look seriously on the ground, I could not tell what to make of it, I had some suspicions that all was not as we at first believed.

“ He is not dead yet,” said I, “ for I hear him groan.”

Bell could not support it any longer ; he burst into a loud laughter, and holding up his head, said, “ messmate I am to windward of you now.” Harry came up at this moment, and joined in the laughter.

At length Bell said, “ what do you think it may be ?”

“ You have the game all to yourselves,” said I.

“ Well, then,” continued Bell, “ it is yon great cotton tree which was split by the lightning ; there is a broken limb which fell athwart another, and as the wind dies or freshens, it rubs more or less with a groaning noise, but when near it, you find the sound is unlike that of any human creature in distress.”

If we had but courage to investigate the greater part of our fears, we should find they had no better grounds to rest on.

I now came to a determination to pay my visit to my good friends to the southward; and for the journey I got Bell to make us a knapsack each, to carry our roasted yams, &c. Harry was appointed pilot; and the party consisted of Harry, Owen, myself, and my dog Rover. When the time of our departure came, I told Bell that I gave the whole charge of my family into his hands; I was fully satisfied that during our absence he would be kind to my wife, and attentive to all the rest; then calling them together, I charged them all, in every thing to conform themselves to my friend's advice, as I had invested him with full authority, in my absence, to superintend all the affairs of our little colony. That mine was a journey of necessity, not of pleasure; that I had promised our friends I would make them a visit, and I was resolved to keep my word. I took a sailor's leave of my wife and the rest,

leaving them all abruptly, and in tears. Harry was affected ; the novelty of the journey pleased Owen, and for a time suspended his feelings. I shall say nothing of our journey, which was made after the manner that has been already described. We arrived all three in safety ; but as I and the child had not been used to such long marches, our feet were much blistered. We drew near to their residence about five in the evening, very much fatigued, as we had been six days on our journey, sleeping every night on the bare ground, with a large fire round us ; we lived scantily, as we got no more than four parrots and one pigeon during the whole journey ; Harry indeed shot a duck in a pond, and as he could not get at it he wanted to send the dog in for it ; but this I at once remonstrated against, lest he might be devoured by the alligators. When we had got thus

far, I made my child sit down by me, and sent Harry into the town before us, to procure us a welcome reception. In a short time we heard a confused noise of many people advancing towards us, and soon after perceived a throng of men, women, and children, coming up with little bells, calabashes, and a rude kind of flute, making altogether a most confused noise ; Gatta-loon, Harry, and several other faces I was well acquainted with, were at their head. We rose to meet them. Gatta-loon came forward and took me by the hand, with a generous smile on his face, and gave me a most kind welcome. There appeared in the countenances of them all the expression of true benevolence, mingled in a degree with admiration. I felt a sensation of delight, and my spirits were exhilarated beyond what I can describe ; my fatigue was forgotten, and my heart only

open to those impressions of benignity and tenderness which were reflected from every countenance around me.

Owen kept close to me, as we went into their ranges of houses or wigwams, and observed every thing with the greatest astonishment, it being the first time he had ever made his appearance in public. Every object he saw excited new admiration; every fresh scene was a scene of wonder and delight. I had dressed him for the occasion, and he really looked like a young cupid, with his sheaf of arrows at his back, and his bow over his arm. We were led to a wigwam something larger than the rest, and at the entrance were met by Zulawana and others. There sat on a mat a very ancient woman, to whom Zulawana led up my child. She took great pains to examine him, her sight being dim through age. She then placed her left hand on his

shoulder, and muttered some few words, which I desired might be interpreted to me, and it was to this effect: "Let not an arrow hit him; let not fire burn him, a tree fall on him, or the water choke him; all you strong men preserve him from the evil spirit of those who would hurt or destroy him in his years of youth and tenderness."

Harry now observed to me that she was one of their good cunning women, and had told many strange things, and that an Indian had said to him they expected us this moon, she having foretold it to them for some days. The young Indians flocked round Owen, and by gentle usage coaxed him out, and began to show him their dexterity with the bow and arrows. Owen having his uncle Harry at his side, took courage, and shewed them some proofs of his skill. Some of the children would

gently touch him, and then look on their own fingers, thinking his colour might rub off as he was fairer than they were; notwithstanding he had more the appearance of an Indian than a European.

C H A P. XXVIII.

WHEN I had been with them about two days, Gatta-loon said he was mighty glad I had turned Spaniard, as there was at that time an old Spanish soldier come among them, and he intended to come and see me in a short time, being then absent with two of their people; but he had taken care to spread the report that I was of that nation. This put me on my guard, and it was now necessary that I should act the Spaniard indeed, which I was resolved to do in the best manner I could. Soon after

this he came, and saluted me after the Spanish manner. I returned the civility, and a conversation commenced. I gave him my whole history ; that I was a native of Barcelona, but had when a boy entered into the service of an English gentleman who was at that time in Venice, went with him to England, &c. ; that in the course of time I had lost much of my mother tongue, and after a multitude of changes became a servant to a gentleman bound to England from Jamaica, was taken, carried into the Havannah, and put prisoner on board a Spanish man of war ; that after many other turns of fortune I was lost in a canoe on this shore, where I had resided many years, part of the time quite alone. He seemed amazed at what I related, and said he found I could not speak Spanish fluently, but that I looked like a Biscayan very much. He then asked my name, and I told him it was Louis Penalosa. In the

course of conversation, I mentioned the circumstance which had happened from the ship's top, when I was a prisoner. On this the old man gave a start, and said he remembered the affair well, being a marine on board that ship. I inquired his name. He said it was Pablo Nunez. I did not remember his person. He asked me if I recollect a man whose name was Nick Jones? I said, "very well."

"Aye," said he, "he was placed sentry over me, while in the stocks for drunkenness," calling him Nico Yone.

While we were thus talking, I called my son Owen. The child came to me. Nunez took him by the hand, and said, "good boy, habla Inglese, yo habla Inglese tam bien, what is your name boy?"

"Owen," he answered.

I begged the old man to inform me where he had learnt English. He said he had been taken by the English in the

reign of Queen Anne ; that he was a prisoner in a castle near Portsmouth. On being released, he went in Sir John Norris's fleet, was up the Baltic with him in a ship called the Boyne, and remembered Peter the Great when on board the fleet, and gave some anecdotes of him, particularly that he refused to drink the Queen's health with the Admiral, out of a silver pint can ; but ordered a pipe of wine on the quarter deck, then calling for an axe, knocked in the head, took a mess can and dipt into it, then lifting the can to his head, drank such a quantity that Norris would not venture to do the like. Also, that to please him, the Admiral ordered a sham engagement, and that Peter took up a shot in his hand, desiring the Admiral would use some of them, as it was mere children's play without them. The Admiral begged to be excused, as he could not make so free with his mistress's subjects.

In a day or two the old man grew very fond of me. He said, " Ah ! brother " Englese, I have no wife or children, " neither have I any provision from the " crown, now I am become old and no " longer of service. I have been from the " old country more than thirty years, and " should I return to Burgos, where I was " born, no one would know me there at " this day, without plata. I have been a " fool in my time, and have now nothing " left, but poverty, rags, and grey hairs ; " Then giving a heavy sigh, said, " he was " grown weary of time, having been put " off so many delays for a passage home, " where, if he arrived, the poor pension that " would be allowed was not worth going " for. He had for some time followed the " profession of a barber, and maker of " segarros, until he had rambled hither, " thinking that he would end his days " after the simple mode of the Indians, as

“ he had now no more care for this world,
“ not believing that he had a friend in ex-
“ istence.”

The old man delivered his story in such plain honest terms, that I at once said to him, “ Pablo Nunez, do you know how to keep a faithful friend if you should find one?”

He at once fixed his eyes on me and replied, “ What interest can these grey hairs find in falsehood at my time of life? I am now seventy years of age; my stay in this world is but short; I would willingly pass it in peace and quiet, to prepare myself for a better.”

“ Could you be content,” said I, “ to reside at my habitation with me and my family; to fare as we do; to eat your morsel with cheerfulness? All I can offer you is a resting place from your labour, and the society of a few very sincere friends.”

“ My good friend Penalosa, all my ambition is to pass the short remainder of my days in peaceful tranquillity ; if, beyond this, I am favoured with your friendship and the sweet society of your family, my joys will be complete. There is but one thing more I would claim, which I am sure you will not deny me, a quiet grave, and that you will lay me in it as a friend and brother.”

I took him by the hand, and said I accepted him as one of my family ; but I must insist on one previous condition, which was, that he would swear never to betray the confidence I was ready to place in him. He immediately put his hand to his breast, and swore by the blessed Virgin that he would be true and faithful to me and mine. This he did in presence of all our mutual friends ; who as soon as they understood what had passed gave a

joyful shout of approbation. He was thus elected a member of our little society.

I now wished to depart as soon as possible, which I mentioned to my old friends, who were by no means against it, as they knew my reasons. I agreed with Gaynosanto to make me two stout canoes, for which I promised to pay fifty dollars. He engaged to get them made, and to bring them round to us in about three moons. Observing hides among them, I proposed they should load the canoes with them, and some cotton cloth and matts, for all which I would make them ample satisfaction. This business concluded, I prepared to return by sea, as old Nunez could not travel so far by land. This they said was proper, and every thing was got ready for the purpose. After having been with them near a fortnight, we left them in four canoes; our company consisted of Gatta-loon as

commander in chief, Zulawana and seven other Indians, with ourselves.

We set sail with a favourable south-west wind, and stood away large after we got clear of their creek. This took us the whole day. We then put in shore and landed on a beach. The Indians soon made up a shelter of bushes, and we composed ourselves to rest for that night. Early at the peep of day we were off again; but the wind fell so, that they took to their paddles. Sometimes they stood, at other times they paddled upon their knees. We went at the rate of seven knots an hour. In the evening we put into a low head-land full of trees; but as the moon rose soon after, we remained there but a short time, just to eat, and then put off again. I observed they acted with great caution, speaking in a low voice; and thus we proceeded till about twelve o'clock; then put in again, took a short nap in our canoes,

and about five got a fair wind again. I now found Zulawana began to grow uneasy, frequently urging on the Indians whenever the wind fell. I was anxious to know the cause of this ; but as they spoke in their own tongue I could only catch a word now and then. However I was soon informed by Harry, that as the moon was then going to turn sides, there might come on a strong wind from the north, with rain ; and if so we should be obliged to put in and perhaps remain there some days. This was no very agreeable news ; but as we were not the pilots, and had no part of the direction, we were silent.

This evening Zulawana told me that we should see the Long Key near my place the next morning, if they only went to sleep for a few hours. This we agreed to, and to put out about five again. But we had not composed ourselves long before I felt a cool breeze from the north. I hint-

ed to Nunez that I did not like our birth, and proposed that we should put into a small bay on the other side of the point we were now at. This was complied with, and we hauled up the boats. It now came on to rain, the clouds gathered, and the Indians began to prepare shelter as fast as possible ; and thus we remained for three days. Poor Owen shivered with the cold, as he had never been exposed to the like before, though to us the change was scarcely perceptible.

On the third day, when we had eaten up all our provisions, I took Harry out with me to see if we could shoot any thing ; but in a short time the Indians sounded a shell for us to return. We did so ; and Zulawana proposed, as it was now almost become a calm, that we should push for it ; and away we went. The Indians began to work away with all their might. My poor boy was almost famished for want of

food. At last they all began to sing, Gatta-loon shewing the example. When I asked the reason, they said we should see our place soon. This I could not well credit ; but in about an hour after, one of the Indians called out and pointed with his finger, and I saw the point of a low spit of land, which they told me was where I lived ; but, on my standing up, I found it to be our Long Key. Upon this I told Harry to begin his song, which I knew would please them. This gave them all fresh spirits, and in about two hours we came in with it.

The pleasure I felt on our arrival was next to that of landing on my native shore. I immediately went off with my gun, others to strike fish, giving orders to have a good fire made up in the mean time. In about two hours we all assembled, and relieved our craving stomachs with what we had procured. About three o'clock we em-

barked again. I anxiously looked out for our signal, but saw none, as they had not seen us when we came within the bay. I now took up a shell, and gave my usual blast, soon after which I saw our flag out, which rejoiced me much. When we got within the lagoon, I heard Bell's conch sound, which I well knew, as we had each of us a different mode of blowing, so as to know each other's blast. When we were in sight of the landing place, we saw all our family out dancing and singing. Owen jumped out, and swam to shore, and when we all landed, the joy of meeting was so universal, and so great, that I shall not pretend to describe it particularly ; I will only observe, that my wife expressed her satisfaction by a flood of tears. Bell told me that all had been well in my absence, and that they had longed every hour for my return. After an absence of three weeks, we were now once more reinstated

in the bosom of our family. We had left three dogs at home ; Harry being so great a sportsman that he now and then begged one from his friends. Rover seemed as glad of his return as any of us, and as he was frisking about with the other dogs, I missed Swift ; on inquiring, I was informed that he had died about five days after our departure, in consequence of the bite of a snake.

This little absence had made my home more delightful to me than ever. I introduced old Nunez to my friend Bell and all my family, representing him in the most favourable light. Our friends the Indians staid with us four days, and on the third Soroteet, or the crab-catcher, was missing for a time. At length he came down the hill, with a small basket of flowers, which he had gathered in the woods. These, to our great surprise, he presented to Jessy.

She received them very graciously, which increased our wonder. Then they both came to me, and Soroteet asked me if I would suffer him to remain among us, if Jessy would accept of him as a husband? I asked Gatta-loon if it was agreeable to them that it should be so, on which condition I was willing to give my consent, as I took it for granted the affair had been settled between him and Harry while we were at their place, which I soon found to have been the case. All agreed to the proposal, and the marriage took place immediately; after which they took their leave of us in perfect good humour and friendship.

My first care was now to build two new wigwams, to accommodate the increase of our family. I proposed that Bell and old Nunez should live in one, and the new married couple in the other. They were soon finished and taken possession of ac-

cordingly. Bell, Nunez, my wife, and I always messed together, and we lived in perfect harmony, without any incident worth relating, to the conclusion of my seventeenth year.

C H A P. XXIX.

EIGHTEENTH YEAR OF MY RESIDENCE.

SOON after the commencement of this my eighteenth year, about nine o'clock in the evening, we heard the report of several heavy guns in the offing. Bell ran up the hill, but could perceive no flashes. This surprised us much, and we knew not how to account for it ; but old Nunez observed it might be guarda costas, as the Spaniards had several out to prevent the contraband trade since the late peace.

“ Late peace !” said I. “ Surely peace between the two nations has been established for many years.”

" My good friend," replied Nunez, " in your retirement you have been very fortunately ignorant of the calamities of Europe. Peace is but just concluded, another war having taken place since that you and I were concerned in."

On the 17th day of July, as our people were busy making torches, about ten in the forenoon, to our great surprise, we heard a gun fired, as from some vessel near the shore. This was a novelty indeed, and what to think, or how to act, we could not immediately tell. Away ran Harry up the hill, and soon came down with the news, that there was a fine ship right off, not far from the Long Key, with a flag out.

" Hoot, hoot, mon," said Bell, " that canna be ; but let us gang up the hill and see what a' this may come to."

We at once ascended the hill, and saw a large sloop quite in shore with our bay.

“ This is strange indeed,” said I, “ how are we to act on this occasion? You see they have hauled down their colours three times. They have certainly discovered us by the great fire that was made this morning, and would speak with us. We are in a critical situation, and it requires some exercise of judgment to know how we are to proceed.”

By means of the glass I could plainly perceive she had up a St George's jack.

“ They are English,” I cried, “ or if Spaniards they have at length discovered our retreat, and are come to learn what we are here upon.”

“ Well,” said Bell, “ suppose they are, if you are willing we will go off to them. What have we to fear? Let the worst come if it will. What think you they would do with a couple of such forlorn fellows as we are?”

At length we determined that Bell and old Nunez should go off to them. No sooner said than done. We acquainted Nunez with our intention, and all was at once hurry and confusion to get ready the yawl for the occasion ; which being done, off they went without arms or any thing but water. I gave Bell and Nunez such directions as I thought it would be prudent to follow. I saw them clear out of the lagoon, and then along side the sloop. My heart began to beat violently, and I reflected with myself that this day would produce some important event, but whether favourable or disastrous to us was yet uncertain. I determined to keep up my spirits, and to prepare my mind for whatever might happen. I thought every minute of their absence an hour, so great was my anxiety. In about four hours they returned, and gave the following account of their expedition. Bell said he found her

to be a Bermudian built sloop ; she mounted guns, and had altogether a warlike appearance ; her bottom was as white as a hound's tooth. As they drew near her, he plainly heard some one say in English, "a rope for the boat," with an oath tacked to the end of it. He then hailed them in Spanish, and was answered in the same language. When he got on board, he asked from whence they came, and was answered from Killicranky. This sounded odd to him, but he soon found they were English.

" Well," said I, " and what has brought them hither ? I suppose by their warlike appearance they are pirates."

" No, no," he replied, " they are what you may call fair traders ; and we can purchase some flour of them if you think proper."

" Well," said I ; " and how did you pass on them ?"

"As a true Spaniard," he said; "and they have no suspicion to the contrary. I told them we lived five miles up the country, and that we would purchase from them if they remained a day or two. Upon which they desired to know where they could water, and I directed them to the point of Long Key. So I think I have executed my commission tolerably well."

"Well, then," I replied, "we must, in the first place, get out a parcel of our dollars and boil them in hot water and ashes to get off their blackness. But what may they ask per barrel?"

"Thirty pieces of eight," said he.

"That may be a trifle to us," I added; "but money enough for them, God knows! How many will they spare us?"

"As many as we want. For seeing our signal of smoke as they thought, they brought to, and fired a gun, to shew they were well disposed to trade with us."

“ What do you really take them to be ? ”

“ Why, they are from America, and are upon what they call the fair thing.”

I told Bell we should be now under the necessity of discovering the secret of our cash to old Nunez. He said if it must be so, and he had sworn to be faithful to us, it might not be amiss to swear him again on my bible ; and at the same time let him know that we are Englishmen, as in the course of time he must know it ; and he believed he already suspected the truth, by our speaking English so often, and by some small hints he let fall at times. I agreed with him in opinion ; and as we had no time to spare, desired Bell to open it to him immediately in Spanish ; and sent for him for the purpose.

When he came, Bell began with him to the following effect : “ Signor Nunez, my friend and I have sent for you for the pur-

pose of making such communications as must at once convince you of our sincere friendship, and the implicit confidence we place in your integrity and judgment. You know that your joining our society was at your own particular desire ; and that you have sworn to be true to us in all things, and to keep secret what shall be imparted to you in confidence. This I believe is the only compact between us."

Nunez at once acknowledged the agreement, and said " we might depend on his obedience to our will in all things, as he was sure we should exact from him no compliance that would do violence to his honour or his religion. He was a poor old man, almost useless, and entirely dependent on our generosity for the comforts and conveniences he enjoyed."

" Well, then," said Bell, " as we are about to convince you of our good opinion, by the discovery of treasure, of which we

mean you to be a partaker, you will certainly not object to swear once more on the contents of this holy book, that you will inviolably keep secret what we shall now unfold to you. We are two plain honest men, and have no evil in our hearts against you or any man on earth. The book I now put into your hand contains the holy scriptures ; this cross which I lay upon it is in commemoration only of him who suffered for lost mankind, and by whose holy gospel you bind yourself to us."

He dropped on his knees, kissed the book with the greatest reverence, at the same time pronouncing his oath aloud, and with great energy.

Bell then acquainted him that we were Englishmen, and described to him the treasure we had found, and where it was now deposited. We found that he had suspected our being Englishmen ; and for the rest,

we might rely upon his fidelity, he said ; and returned us thanks for the honour we had done him, by admitting him a member of our family ; and the important secret we had entrusted him with, he would ever hold sacred and inviolate.

I then set him, Bell, and Harry, to work with the dollars. When the old man first beheld our treasure he was truly astonished, and cried out, “ Santa Maria ! mucho plata per cierta ! Maravillosa !”

When this business was done, early the next day I sent off Bell, Nunez, and Harry in the yawl, with a quantity of money, yams, plantains, potatoes, oranges, limes, and beans, to traffic with them in the best manner they could, and to make such presents to the officers as they thought fit ; also to purchase any thing they knew we stood most in need of, and bring an account of what they might have to dispose of.

About twelve o'clock the boat returned. Bell told me he had agreed for twelve barrels of flour, and a goat with young, to be delivered at the old plantation ; a barrel of gunpowder ; shot of different sizes ; a parcel of flints, nails, fish-hooks, clasp knives ; two saws ; six chissels ; two adzes ; five hatchets ; three axes, and some other articles. He said they acted with great caution and dispatch, and enquired much about the guarda costas. The captain's name he could not learn ; but as the cargo consisted of many other articles, he advised me to visit the sloop myself. I might pass for an Irishman, and I could then please myself. I resolved to take his advice ; and as my wife had never been on board any vessel, I determined to take her with me. So, early on the morrow we set off ; my wife, Bell, Owen, and I, in the yawl ; Nunez and Harry in the old canoe ;

leaving Soroteet as a guard at home. When we came alongside, Bell went first on board, and told them that I was a neighbour and partner of his ; that I was born in Ireland, but had resided many years in that country ; that the Indian woman was my wife, and the boy my son. I had given Owen a charge to say his name was Mus-kelly, if he should be asked, but otherwise not to speak ; for if he did in English they would carry him away with them, and he would never see me again. I had no occasion to say more to him ; this was sufficient caution. After we had been on board some time, I asked them how they came into these parts, so very remote, as Killicranky was in Scotland ?

Upon this they said, “ there might be more places of the same name ; and if I did not ask so many questions, they would not tell me so many lies.”

" Well, then, faith and troth," said I,
" I know how to keep my breath to cook
my porridge."

I bought of them a large grindstone; two watches; two dozen of white beaver hats; five pieces of striped linen; some thread, Osnaburghs, and twine. Bell produced his small diamonds, and a little fellow who seemed to be a doctor was put to examine them; they had them for the value of about 200 dollars in truck; but we observed this part of the game was played under the rose, in the roundhouse. We likewise bought another watch for our friend Nunez; needles, pins, scissars, razors; ravenduck; a good telescope, as that I had was but a very indifferent one; some medicines and lancets, which were chosen by Bell; some pen-knives; two large iron pots; cordage; a goose and gander, with a drake and duck; and well did we pay for

them. We had likewise a few quart bottles and phials, also a mallet; two dozen sail needles; three marlinspikes, and a dozen of small blocks; several kinds of small stuff, such as rat-line, mar-line, spun-yarn, &c. Bell took notice of some small red-framed looking-glasses, and it immediately struck me that they would serve as presents to our Indian neighbours, as well as a few for our own use. We therefore bought three dozen of them; a dozen of table knives and forks, and many other articles.

When our traffic was at an end, they seemed to wish our departure, and we wanted their company as little. We therefore at once took our leave, and as we were going off heard the order given to run up their anchor, and hoist the jib, which being done, away they went close hauled with the wind at south, and we made for the shore, glad enough they had

paid us the visit, and as glad of their departure, as we wanted no more of their company.

When we had got all our purchase home safe, we were as busy as bees in arranging the different articles. We lodged our flour in the kitchen, and when we came to the white hats, I put one on each of their heads, and they were not a little proud of this distinction. We now began to make shirts, shifts, trowsers, and the like, so that in a short time we were quite fine. My wife expressed her wonder at every thing she had seen, for it was all new to her. She called the roundhouse, the little wigwam of the great men ; the hold, the long kitchen of my countrymen ; but she said she did not like them, as they were very impudent, for they looked through her eyes when she offered to open them.

Owen and Harry remarked, they could not think how so many people could

find victuals to eat, and how they could carry those great heavy' shooters. Owen thought it strange to see them run up the shrouds, and pull the ropes through the blocks ; but the drum was what struck them most, how they could possibly put so much noise into that thing, with no more than two little sticks.

Bell, when on board, begged to have a gun fired, to see what effect it would have on the Indians, and they obliged him with three. When the first went off, Harry ran to me, got behind my back, stared like a wild cat, and shook like a leaf, crying out, “ow, ow, ow.” Owen fell down, and roared aloud. But it had a different effect on my wife ; she stood motionless, with her eyes closed ; as she began to recover, she desired me to be going, for she was sure such another knock would shake her head off, and split her heart.

The women had each of them a looking glass presented to them, in which they were constantly looking, and called them water stones. But the watches were the objects of the greatest wonder to all ; nor could we persuade them but that there must be a spider or some such small insect within them, made Owyooks of, or as we call witches, to keep them always moving and ticking. To preserve them, we were obliged in a degree to give into their notion, by informing them that no one must touch them, but those who had learned the charm on the other side the great water. This succeeded so well, that not a soul would touch a watch on any persuasion whatever. Harry and Owen, if they saw either of us go to wind one up, would immediately withdraw to some distance. This was just as we would have it, otherwise our watches would have been soon spoiled. But what is re-

markable, my young Rees could never be brought to fear a watch in the least; and this gave us some trouble, as we were obliged to make fobs to carry them about with us, or hang them very high in the evenings out of reach.

After a short time we made leaven, and kneaded cakes. Our ladies became so exceedingly fond of them, that I was sorry we had not purchased more flour, or that we had procured any at all; as in our situation, to increase our wants, was, on the first deprivation, to increase our misery. The introduction therefore of any comfort or accommodation that could not be continued was impolitic, and productive of more injury than service. We found, by our mode of making cakes, that there was considerable waste. I therefore proposed to Bell, that we should contrive, if possible, to make an oven. As this was an undertaking of some magnitude, I began to restrict

them in the use of flour, until the oven should be built. Bell proposed making bricks, and burning lime of shells ; but Nunez told us we need not give ourselves all this trouble, as he saw we could make yabbas well enough ; why should we not raise a large deep oven in somewhat the same form, and make a clay hearth for it to rest on, which, when well burnt, we had only to heat properly, and lay our bread on it, then turn down the large yabba oven over it, covering the whole occasionally with hot ashes ? The process was certainly simple, and we immediately began to form one, in which we succeeded to our wishes. Nunez then, with the help of Harry, built a small thatched shed over it, and in this oven we baked now and then, when Bell, who had been appointed our steward, thought proper. Thus we had commonly bread three times a-week, and about half a pound each. I soon perceiv-

ed, however, as our meal was not like the widow's that wasted not, that the oven would be useless in a little time for want of flour ; and to make it last the longer, from this time we used to mix yams, plantains, &c. with the flour, and produced very good bread with these ingredients.

Thus our time passed away happily in love and friendship ; it is true, that we were confined to a solitary shore, but we were unmolested in our retreat, and enjoyed a constant round of tranquillity ; we had no wants but what we could well supply, and must have been the most ungrateful of mortals, if we did not thank God for his blessings, and learn to be content with our lot. I could not help frequently looking back to the forlorn situation in which I was first cast upon this shore ; without fire, food, or raiment, to comfort, to support, or to cover me ; exposed to the scorching rays of the sun by day, and to the heavy

dews by night. Yet had God spread a table for me in this wilderness ; he had comforted, fed, and clothed me ; he had changed my solitary life to the pleasures of society ; he had given me friends, relations, children ; beyond the simple necessities of life, we were surrounded with conveniences, with comforts, I might almost say with luxuries. This was the state of my outward condition, but my mind had undergone a still greater revolution. When I was thrown upon this coast, I was an idle, thoughtless, dissolute being, with passions raging in my bosom, over which I exercised no controul, and which in their gratification might have led me to an early grave ; the obligations of society sat loosely on me, more from want of reflection than from any radical depravity ; I was not void of principle, but my irregular appetites and the bad example of others, which I had not fortitude to resist, pre-

vailed over my best resolutions. In fact, I was hardly to be looked upon as a thinking being. That circumstance of my life which I considered as the greatest calamity that could happen to any human being, (so little do we know of the designs of providence) turned out to be the most fortunate ; for to that accident which separated me from my disorderly companions, and left me naked, as it were, on this shore, I owe, not only all the happiness I at present enjoy, but the assurance of a still greater portion hereafter. My solitary situation restored me to myself ; my almost miraculous preservation taught me to reflect ; reflection brought to my view the errors of my past life, my ingratitude to my God, and my disobedience to my earthly parent. I became another creature ; my very soul seemed to be purified ; God gave me strength and fortitude to bear my sufferings with an equal, with a contented

mind. I trusted in him and he delivered me ; " he hath turned my heaviness into joy, and girded me with gladness ; therefore, O my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever !"

C H A P. XXX.

ABOUT the latter end of September, Bell and I went on a party of recreation ; we took Owen with us, intending to fish when we came into deep water. As we got out of the lagoon, the wind came round to east, and Bell proposed that we should make some stretches into the offing ; we did so till we got about five miles out beyond the east point of Long Key. This was the greatest distance I had been right out in my whole time. Now the wind began to die away, whereas we had expected to return with a fine leading breeze. I

proposed to stand in again. "As you please," said he; and away we went before it, for the space of half an hour, when it died away and became stark calm. We found a small current running to the westward.

"Here we are, messmate," said I; "but how are we to get back?"

"We must take to our oars," he said.

"And a pretty pull we shall have of it," I replied; "we shall drive a league below the key, before we can get in again."

We set hard to it, and in about half an hour got within the current way, and then determined to try for some fish, when the water should shoal a little. While we were thus talking, we observed on the surface of the sea something that had the appearance of a white ball, and the water in agitation all round it. In a short time after, it suddenly rose above the water to the height of three feet or more. We lay on

our oars to observe it. This was repeated several times. We could not conceive what it could be, but resolved to row gently towards it. When we were within about thirty yards, we could discern it to be that kind of fish called the hedge hog, or globe fish. This fish has the power of swelling itself up, so as to become round like a ball, and is armed at all points with long and sharp darts. Round this fish were gathered three or four dolphins, who would every now and then strike it out of the water with their tails ; when the globe fish fell back on the surface, it would paddle away with its under fin to some distance, very swiftly, and then the game was renewed. They went on thus for a considerable time, till Bell chanced to make too rough a movement with his oar, when it sunk at once like a stone ; so that we conceived it to be mere sport, as the globe fish could thus disengage itself at pleasure from

the dolphins that surrounded it. This scene was a direct confutation of the common notion of sailors, that the dolphin is never seen within soundings, as at this time we had not above eighteen fathoms of water, and over patches of rocks.

We now began to fish in about twelve fathoms, and soon had a quantity of different kinds around us, among which were the largest amber fish we had ever seen. As we were busy at our sport, we observed a fish would follow up what we had taken upon our hooks, of a kind we had never before seen; but as he did not shew himself high enough to give his true shape, I shall give the best description I am able. It appeared as black as a coffin when covered with velvet, with a very large fin on the back, running its whole length. On the highest part of this fin, right over the shoulders, was a long kind of whip about sixteen inches long; the upper fork of the

tail had the same kind of appendage to it, and these he continually kept playing about. The whole fish might be about four feet in length. It seemed to be very active amongst the other fish, driving about here and there, and appeared to be very voracious ; yet it would not touch our bait, nor could we perceive that it offered to snap at the other fish. I wished very much to take one of them, but found it impossible.

Soon after, a small cat's-paw came in from seaward, and we got up our killick, set our sail and stood in for the bay, with the wind increasing, so that we soon arrived with our cargo of fish. Among those we had taken, were two sorts which deserve some notice ; they are called morays, and are commonly about four feet long from head to tail, which ends in a complete point. They are shaped somewhat like a sword, having fins running the whole

length above and below. This fish is flat, and not round like an eel, but moves just like one, twisting itself into various knots, and bites sharply. One sort is green as a leek ; the other finely mottled with white, black, and yellow. The leopard's skin cannot be more beautiful.

By this time we had several young fowls about us ; and Harry one day brought home half a dozen flamingoes. While the children were picking them, Bell observed to me that for the sake of novelty he would make a fowl pie, with my wife's assistance ; which was done and baked nicely in our fine new oven ; so that now we could boil, roast, bake, stew, barbecue, &c. &c. Old Nan, our goat, brought two kids, and they soon began to be so mischievous, that we were obliged to keep a sharp look out over what linen we were possessed of ; for whenever they could come at it, they would chew and nibble it to a rag presently. At

length they found their way to my store of paper, and began their depredations accordingly. It was with great difficulty I kept the worm from it; but this was a more serious enemy, and must be immediately provided against. We held a council how to proceed. Bell said as my wattling work had proved so useful, he was resolved to make a sort of hovel for the goats, fowls, &c. We all went to work immediately with much spirit; but it took us up six weeks before we had completed it to our satisfaction. It was divided into four apartments; one for the goats, with its own door; another for the fowls; so that they could never get out in the morning without our permission. The apartment for the dogs was open at all times; the last we made our store-room, which was three times the size of the others, and in it we stowed our dry wood. Our gun-

powder we kept at a good distance, under a cavern of the rocks in the earth.

The next business Bell undertook was to build a kind of fence round the side of the stream for our geese and ducks, so contrived that they could with ease play in it without wandering too far away, with a small house for them in one corner of the fence. By the time the whole was finished, it had somewhat the appearance of a farm-yard ; and by this arrangement we preserved our live stock from the tigers and wild-cats. Indeed these gentry seldom troubled us now. It was my delight in the morning to hear the crowing of the cock, and the innocent noises of the goats, geese, and ducks, calling the boys to give them their daily allowance.

Some short time after this, about twelve o'clock in the day, one of our dogs took off up the hill at full speed. Upon this Bell

turned out with his gun. I begged him not to venture too far from home. Harry soon followed him with his. They did not return in less than two hours. They said they had followed the dog for more than three miles, as they were sure he had scent of a deer by the dung they found; and that on their return, they had found a nest of bees in an old tree full of combs. I inquired how far off it was. They said about a mile; and they were resolved to take it that evening, which was the best time. I advised them against it, and said, if they would leave it till the next day I would go with them. Nothing would do but they must set off at once. All I could do was to see they were well armed. They took each a gun and maschut, with fire and powder. I was in great anxiety during their absence; but in about two hours they returned victorious, with a fine parcel of combs. I desired to know how they had

gained their prize? They told me they first made up a good fire; then they suffocated them with a squib. As no mischance had happened, we were rejoiced at their success; and we soon found the women knew better what to do with the honey than to make bread.

As I happened to be out very early the next morning, I perceived, to my astonishment, a great smoke blow over our cliff. I immediately called out the rest. They were all much alarmed. I told them this was certainly the consequence of their last night's excursion; I was sure they had left fire in the woods, and if the wind continued southerly, we should be burnt out.

We went up the hill and found it to be as I said; the fire was spread far and wide, and made a dreadful appearance.

“ Well,” said I, “ you have found out

'an excellent method to rid us of tiger fears."

" Well," said Bell, " and so be it."

" Ay, but you will now be at a loss for fuel, unless you go further a-field for it."

" Never fear," replied Harry, " it will not come down below us ;" and I found he was right, for it stopped at the brow of the hill.

The smoke continued above three days. When the whole was over we took a walk and found all our traps destroyed ; every thing was laid waste, so that the place for the extent of two miles was quite naked and bare. Upon the whole, I must confess, I was not entirely displeased, as the harbour for wild beasts was certainly broken up by it. Though, on the other hand, it was useful to us, and added greatly to the picturesque beauty of our habitation, which now bore a dreary and melancholy

appearance. This affair happened about the 27th of December, so that we had a rare fire to keep Christmas with.

Nothing worth notice happened for some time after this, except that we were pestered with hawks after our chickens, so that the boys were fully employed in watching them. The cat too made bold now and then with a chick or two; but by tying him up with a bunch of feathers round his neck and under his nose, he left off the game. The hawks we put in dread, by fixing a pole with a cross on the top, on which we hung the dead hawks we had shot. Having provided against this, we were attacked by another enemy, a large sort of snake, that would swallow the chicken whole. Owen and Harry often shot them. The latter would roast and eat them, saying, they were a great delicacy. At length Bell and Nunez conquer-

ed their prejudices, and partook of them too.

One day I entered our dwelling, and casting my eyes on our child America, as she lay sleeping on a few plantain leaves, I discovered a monstrous centipede extended across her throat. The sight agitated me greatly, as I knew if it should sting the infant in that tender part, the agony it might throw her into might prove mortal. I was terrified lest the movement of its feet might awaken the child, and she might put up her hand to remove what had disturbed her, in which case it would either sting her hand or throat. I therefore gently clapped my hand down by it, and with a sudden jerk, cast it clear from her. I then killed it, and put it into some spirits we kept for that purpose, knowing it to be the best antidote against this poison, by rubbing the part injured with it, and it never failed to assuage the anguish, and reduce the swell-

ing. These insects are of a yellow brown colour, and their general size from four to eight inches in length, and in breadth scarcely an inch. They are scaled on the back, as in joints, with a pair of forceps or pincers at the tail, and when angry erect them in a curve forward, emitting venom through small apertures into the wound, which turns the part quite livid, and brings on a most excruciating torment, which sometimes lasts three or four hours.

I remember one day as my wife was leaning against the rock, and I was talking to her, I perceived a large scorpion close by her face. I withdrew gently, and called her away. When I had got her from the place, I shewed it to her, and she was not a little thankful, that by my precaution she had escaped the bite of this malignant insect. I called Bell, and taking a bottle with a small quantity of brandy, by an artful twitch he contrived to get it into the

bottle. We perceived that it emitted a drop of some liquid, and it was full fifteen minutes before the spirit had so overpowered it, that it might be considered as dead.

The scorpions are not large, as we never saw one above four inches in length, most of them being from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches. They are shaped in the forepart something like a lobster, having claws, but differ much abaft, as I may say, for they have a tail of several joints, in the end of which is inserted a kind of hook. This they use after the same manner as the centipede. They are of a pale dirty yellow, and carry their young on their backs. Our Indians say that if any of their young should chance to come before them, they will at once devour them. Harry one day shewed me one, and said I should see him make it kill itself. He made a circle of burning coals round it. The scorpion endeavoured to escape for a

time; at length finding that to be impossible, began to turn up its sting, and in a few moments wounded itself to death. This insect, as well as the centipede, frequents damp and retired places, and never voluntarily approaches the light of the day.

As I am now speaking of insects, I will mention something about the spiders, though I will not pretend to give a description of the many sorts that are to be met with here; but perhaps the characters of a few may give some entertainment. I will begin with that which is of the greatest magnitude; and I protest I have seen some that would spread the full extent of a man's fingers and thumb. These are very common, and make webs exceedingly strong, but are not venomous, although they have sharp black teeth, and bite if disturbed. They sometimes appear with a large round white belly about the size of half a dollar; but this large body proves to be nothing

more than a bag, in which they carry their young. This bag they can dismiss at the proper season, and then they lodge it against some shelf or place, from which the young come forth at their appointed time. There is another sort of them, to which I gave the name of the tiger. It has no settled place of abode, nor does it ever spin any web, but keeps on a constant cruize after the flies. It is striped black and white. Nothing can exceed the craft and artifice of this insect. When lying in wait for its prey, you may see him on the side of a tree, rock, or such other place, where flies frequent. Here he lies as if asleep; but as soon as any fly fixes within the distance of about two feet from him, he, directly, with a sudden motion of his body, faces about, and with his short legs advances slowly towards him; but if the fly moves his position ever so little, in an instant he points the same way, and for

a short time lies motionless, then begins again to advance exceedingly slow, till he comes within the distance of about eight inches, when he jumps at once on the poor victim, and devours him.

There is another kind not so large, which Bell called red poops, having their after parts as red as vermillion. These keep in corners, and are constantly spinning threads, and running up and down them. If they see a grub or the like, they drop down by a thread, and give it a gentle touch, which instantly kills it ; then they fix more lines to it, and draw the body up by degrees, hand over hand, as our sailors would a bucket of tar into the main top. We found it necessary to kill them, whenever they were found in our habitation, as they would at times drop down and give us one of their gentle touches, which never failed to occasion an inflammatory burning, so that it became necessary to apply oil or brandy,

either of which would at once assuage the pain.

At times we found a very large spider, back in the uplands, which deserves to be particularly described. This sort frequents banks which face the rising sun, where they make their cells ; they are black and white. One day as I was out with my gun, with Harry and Owen, the latter bid me look on the bank, and see the great spiders, how they stopped their holes. I did not attend to him at first ; but Harry desired me to halt, and said if I went on slowly I should see a fine thing. Soon after I observed these spiders run into their holes, and shut the doors after them. On this I took out my knife, and picked at one of the doors, which to my great surprise I found to work to and fro, as on hinges. It was composed of a thick substance of web, and of a circular form. When I had satisfied my curiosity thus far, I told them we

would withdraw a little and observe their motions. After waiting some time, one began to open his door half way ; his neighbour followed him, then another, and so on, till many threw them quite back and came out. As we were wondering at their cautious sagacity, our dog Rover got sight of them, and drove the whole town presently to close quarters, and prevented our further observation at that time.

As old Nunez was out on the hill, which was his constant morning walk, he thought he discovered some canoes at a distance to the westward, and came down to inform us. Upon this I took my glass, and went up with Bell. We soon perceived two canoes.

“ These,” said I, “ are our new boats, I will venture any wager ; so let us prepare a repast for our friends against they come in.”

In about an hour we observed them

come round the Key, and I could plainly perceive ten people. I desired Bell to get our boat ready, that we might go and meet them; which he did, and we came up to them in the bay. When within hearing, I hailed them, and they answered, "Amigos." We then put off before them up the lagoon, and they all came on shore, being Gattaloon, Gaynosanto, and eight other Indians, who most of them had been at our place before. We welcomed them in our usual manner, and Gattaloon told me those were our two canoes, which they had made for my use. They likewise brought us four beef hides, matting, cotton pieces for our women, some cocoas and coffee seeds, and other things. The canoes were eighteen feet long, and two and a half feet by the beam, as I may term it, and would carry eight men each with ease. I presented each of them with a small looking-glass, and some of our remaining Dutch cloth, which

was but of little value, it had been so injured by the moth and time. Bell paid fifty dollars into the hands of Gatta-loon, desiring they would never discover how they came by them to the Spaniards, or to mention that they had found them as we had done. All this they promised to observe strictly, and we doubted not their integrity, having had the experience of so many years of their unshaken fidelity.

Gatta-loon asked Nunez how he liked his situation? The old man said he had not enjoyed so much ease and quiet for many years past. He then inquired the same of Soroteet. His answer was, that he thought the Agago, (or as they translated it, the killing spirit,) had never found the way to our place, or had never heard of it; saying that Manoluvy or Manoluby was always among us whenever they came, which they might see by the laughing in our faces at all times. By this word they mean general amity or concord.

In about three days after our little business was settled, they took their leave to return home overland, having brought arms with them for that purpose. They said, when they left us, that there was a vessel cast away, about half a day's paddling from their place, more to the west. We asked them of what people ; but they could give us no satisfaction, saying they saw none of the men dead or alive ; and that she was all to pieces ; had a white bottom, one mast, and some great guns. From which we judged that it might probably be the fair trader that had so lately visited us, as the description answered exactly.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.







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